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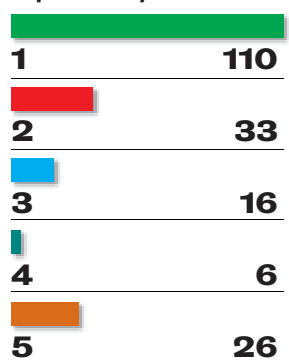
MONDAY JANUARY 24, 2011

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POLL RESULTS

On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 the lowest and 5 the highest, rate your level of optimism that the CNMI economy will improve this year.



Sunday, January 23, 2011

INSIDE



Nuts Night

Locals and tourists alike take part in "Nuts Night" revelry at GIG.

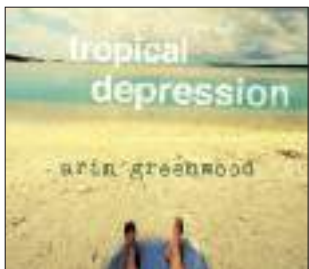
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Perfect Operation

South Korean commandos storm a hijacked freighter in the Arabian Sea in a daring rescue.

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Missing Guam sailboat bound for PH found. PAGE 2
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Pension bond initiative plan revived

» With status quo, Fund lifespan at 'alarmingly short' 7 to 9 years

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Acting governor Eloy S. Inos and lawmakers agreed on Friday to reintroduce a previously defeated initiative that could pave the way for the government to float up to \$200 million in bonds, proceeds of which will be used to pay the government's more than \$300 million debt to the NMI Retirement Fund.



Manglona

At the same time, Fund administrator Richard Villagomez warned lawmakers that the pension system's lifespan "is already an alarmingly short seven to nine years."

He said this is an approximate time period, given the status quo that includes current payments to the Fund as ordered by the local court.

In June 2009, the local court ruled that the central government

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Govt pays CUC \$537K for unpaid bills

» CUC, executive branch reviewing disconnection list for Tinian

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The government paid the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. a total of \$537,000 last week for power consumption, just a fraction of the total amount it owes the utility agency and no guarantee that offices and departments will not be further disconnected from the power grid.

CUC confirmed this with the
See CUC on Page 4

Fitial's ex-counsel paid \$175 an hour

» Willens worked for free, expenses capped at \$48K a year

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial was paying his former special counsel Joel J. Bergsma \$175 an hour, but not to exceed \$10,000 a month as stated in his sole-source contract in October 2008.

Bergsma quit as Fitial's counsel in early 2009, or after three years on the job, to focus on his practice in San Diego,

See EX-COUNSEL on Page 4



FROM JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2010

Underage drinking, marijuana possession lead juvenile offenses

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Underage drinking and possession of marijuana were the top offenses committed by youths detained at the Kagman Juvenile Detention Facility last year, based on records of the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs.

Records show that there were a total of 124 juveniles admitted to the facility from January through December 2010. Of that number, 21 were minors consuming liquor while 13 were caught in possession of marijuana.

The total number of juvenile detainees last year is a 23-percent decline compared to that of 2009, when a total of 163 youths were detained at the facility. Of that number, around 70 percent were apprehended for theft and burglary cases.

DCCA Secretary Melvin Faisao said Friday that, although there was a significant decrease in the number
See UNDERAGE on Page 4

FIRE EXTINGUISHER TRAINING

Kagman Elementary School principal Ignacia Demapan and fellow school teachers receive fire extinguisher safety training sessions last week presented by Safety 1st Systems CNMI, Inc.'s fire technician Jack Kabiriel. Safety 1st Systems donated the training sessions and student pedestrian crossing traffic cones, safety vests, flags, and stop/slow paddles to Kagman Elementary School last month. Each training session participant will receive training certification, and each CNMI elementary school will receive the same pedestrian crossing equipment and fire extinguisher training to protect all CNMI elementary school children. All certified teachers will teach their students essential fire safety. Safety 1st Systems is located in Gualo Rai, Saipan. It can be reached at 235-6500.

PR

Local

Missing Guam sailboat bound for Philippines found



GUAM—The five missing boaters who left Guam on Jan. 6., bound for Cebu, the Philippines, have been located Sunday at 1:30pm Chamorro standard time.

The husband of one of the missing boaters was contacted by his wife via cell phone Sunday 1:30pm. He immediately called Rescue Coordination Center Guam and gave the *Pineapple's* position in Leyte

The 38-foot catamaran *Pineapple* is anchored at Marianas Yacht Club in Guam Dec. 11, 2010.

U.S. COAST GUARD PHOTO

Gulf, Philippines. The husband confirmed the vessel ran into bad weather and suffered a rudder and radio casualty. This delayed the *Pineapple's* voyage but it was never in danger of sinking.

Two Coast Guard HC-130 Hercules aircraft, two Navy P-3 Orion aircraft, two Air Force C-12 aircraft, and the Coast Guard cutter *Sequoia* searched more than 63 hours and covered approximately 122,600 square nautical miles in the Philippine Sea. Rescue crews with the Philippine Coast Guard also aided in the search for the sailboat *Pineapple*.

"This was a tremendous international multi-service search effort that covered an expansive area of open ocean," said Capt. Thomas Sparks, U.S. Coast Guard Guam Sector commander. "Although we didn't find the *Pineapple*, reports indicate we were looking in exactly the right spot."

"These open ocean cases are extremely challenging. Even under ideal conditions it is very difficult to spot a vessel from an aircraft," said Sparks.

The Coast Guard also received assistance from the neighboring island nations of the Republic of Palau and the

Federated States of Micronesia.

"I'm elated for the family and friends of the *Pineapple*, but compelled to point out that this voyage was made without taking basic, common-sense precautions. The vessel did not have long distance communications or emergency distress equipment, and a comprehensive float plan was not filed," said Sparks.

"As a result, the families and friends experienced days of needless anxiety and hundreds of thousands of dollars were expended on search efforts that were potentially dangerous for our service members and ultimately unnecessary," said Sparks.

"Bottom line though, Coast Guard rescue crews are grateful the crew of the *Pineapple* was found safe. Family and loved ones have been notified and I am sure they are anxiously awaiting their safe return back home," said Sparks.

The Philippine Coast Guard is escorting the *Pineapple* crew to Cebu, the Philippines, which is their final destination.

The Coast Guard will conduct a post search and rescue briefing with the crew to determine the events surrounding this case. (USCG)

University of North Texas extends scholarship program to the CNMI

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The University of North Texas has extended its masters degree program and popular online format to scholars from the Pacific islands, including the Commonwealth, through its library education for U.S.-affiliated Pacific cohort program, or LEAP.

The university has 23 scholarship slots for the Pacific region and classes for the fall semester of 2011 will start in August.

This opportunity was relayed by the university to the Northern Marianas College, which then informed the Legislature through Sen. Pete Reyes.

In an email to Reyes, NMC director for library programs and services Matthew Pastula disclosed that most of the studies under the scholarship program will be online. He said the deadline of application is April 1.

Pastula said scholarship coordinators will be on Saipan at NMC's Olympio Borja Library on Jan. 26, from 9am to 12pm, to answer questions and provide information on the application process.

According to the University of North Texas website, scholars can earn their masters degree by attending a nine-day web institute at the College of Micronesia national campus

in Pohnpei and then completing the rest of their college degree online.

The web institute portion of the master's program includes an orientation, technology training, and instruction in the master's program core courses, as well as time to socialize with their institute colleagues and faculty.

Through funding from the Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program, sponsored by the Institute of Museum and Library Services, students will receive full tuition scholarships to complete the University of North Texas master's program.

LEAP scholarship recipients will receive \$20,000 to cover tuition and fees for the 36-hour program, advising by University of North Texas faculty, stipends to support travel and expenses, national and local professional association dues, a laptop computer and software, and funds to support home connectivity.

Each student will be matched with a UNT University Libraries professional librarian for academic support and mentoring. Scholars will also attend professional development workshops and specialized classes on information literacy and technology.

The University of North Texas is one of the largest universities in Texas, enrolling more than 36,000 students.

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Torres: NMC has to report ETC collection and spending

» Senate public hearing on NMC budget, 2 bills tomorrow

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan) says the Legislature and the governor have the right to know how much in educational tax credit money is being collected and spent by the Northern Marianas College, as proposed by one of his two bills that will be the subject of the Senate's public hearing tomorrow.

Educational tax credit or ETC money are donated by private companies to NMC as well as other schools as tax credit, designed for specific use such as to buy school equipment, textbooks, and supplies.

Torres, in his prepared testimony for the hearing, said his House Bill 17-93, among other things, seeks to add ETC as a recorded item in NMC's financial books "in which all contributions will be recorded and reported to the Legislature and the governor."

"The ETC subtracts potential revenue from the tax collections to the general fund, and the Legislature and the governor have the right to know how much ETC is collected and how it is spent," Torres said in his Jan. 21 letter to Senate floor leader Pete Reyes (R-Saipan).

Reyes, chairman of the Senate Education Committee, has reset from 10am to 2pm the Tuesday public hearing on HB 17-93, HB 17-39, and NMC's budget.

The public hearing is co-sponsored by the Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee which is headed by Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota).

Torres urges that the Senate Education Committee recommend passage of HBs 17-93 and 17-39.

HB 17-93 seeks to improve the financial oversight of NMC. It also says the attorney general shall be responsible for providing legal advice to NMC, representing the college in all legal matters, or if it is deemed necessary, designating a legal repre-

sentative from the private sector.

Torres said his bill's plain purpose is to amend 3 CMC 1613 in order to maintain fiscal stability "and to create transparency and professionalism in the submission of its annual financial report to the governor and the Legislature."

He said NMC's previous position that the governor and the Legislature cannot change the statutory language of the Postsecondary Act of 1984 "is definitely wrong."

Torres listed the changes his bill proposes to do, including requiring NMC to deposit its funds in federal insured banks and report each account in its annual financial report.

"These changes are minimal when looking at the overall picture of the board's duties. During these times of economic hardships, it is important that all executive agencies follow acceptable guidelines in reporting all the revenues they collect and how the taxpayers' money is spent. No exceptions," Torres told Reyes.

His other bill, HB 17-39, also seeks to amend the Postsecondary Education Act of 1984, to ensure that officers, faculty employees and staff of NMC, excluding the president, are terminated through an adopted grievance proceeding and only "with cause." It also requires a merit personnel system.

This bill also says that the NMC president can be removed at any time by a majority vote of the Board of Regents.

"Frankly, all the Legislature wants with the passage of House Bill 17-39 is to provide the basic due process rights to employees, to prevent the numerous terminations 'without

cause' that have cost the college time, tremendous amounts of public money, and the loss of valuable employees over the years," Torres said.

The veteran lawmaker also said there's no reason for the Western Association of Schools and Colleges to be concerned with the passage of HB 17-39 "when the vast number of community and senior colleges under its accreditation have multi-layered systems of employee due process protections..."

NMC interim president Lorraine Cabrera's office said last week that the college is aware of the Tuesday public hearing "and is diligently preparing for this session with the Senate."

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2006	Toyota Camry XLE	22,705	\$14,995	2004	Hyundai Santa Fe	59,873	\$7,995
2008	Mazda Mazda3i	39,098	\$12,995	2007	Hyundai Accent	33,712	\$7,995
2007	Mazda Mazda3i	45,609	\$11,995 SOLD	2006	Hyundai Accent	38,801	\$6,995
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EX-COUNSEL

From Page 1

California.

Washington, D.C.-based lawyer Howard P. Willens has been providing professional legal services to the CNMI governor "free of charge."

However, expenses related to his work for the CNMI were capped at \$36,000 a year, later raised to \$48,000.

Fitial, in an October 2006 contract for Willens, agreed to reimburse his counsel for airfare between Saipan and Washington, D.C. not to exceed \$3,000 per trip, pay for his per diem of \$100 a day when he's in the CNMI but not to exceed 60 days per quarter, and reimburse him for the cost of car rentals while on Saipan, not to exceed \$1,000 a month.

In that 2006 contract, the agreement was for the counsel not to make more than one trip in each quarter without advance permission from the governor.

Estimated total for airfare was \$9,000 at the time, estimated total per diem was \$18,000, and estimated to-

tal for car rental, \$9,000, for a total of \$36,000.

An amended contract in December 2007 showed that the total fees allowed were increased, not to exceed \$48,000 a year.

All this information are based on documents that former representative Tina Sablan obtained from the Office of the Governor last week, under Open Government Act requests for information related to government's legal service contracts.

Although the Office of the Governor earlier submitted a list of disbursements made from the governor's account since 2008, no billings or contracts were provided. Last week, the governor's office provided copies of Willens' and Bergsma's contracts.

Sablan has so far found that some government agencies and autonomous agencies have been found paying or had paid private lawyers up to \$200 an hour, and up to \$80,000 a year. Others were paid under different arrangements.

Bergsma

Based on documents obtained from the

governor's office, Bergsma served as Fitial's special legal counsel since January 2006 when he became governor for the first time. Fitial was re-elected in 2009.

In October 2008, Fitial approved another sole-source contract for Bergsma for an hourly rate of \$175 an hour, not to exceed \$10,000 a month.

Total fees were also not to exceed \$70,000 a year, the contract says.

At the time, Bergsma was expected to provide his principal legal services for matters relating to the restructuring of the Commonwealth Health Center and Department of Public Health; pension obligation bond through a legislative initiative; utility service reform and privatization, and legal matters relating to tax and budget issues.

Willens

Fitial, in justifying a sole-source contract to Willens in September 2006, said Willens, a graduate of the Yale Law School, has represented the CNMI on status matters from time to time.

"The proposed agreement is a cost effective means of providing the governor access to a uniquely qualified lawyer who has volunteered to work without any monetary or other compensation for his professional services," Fitial said.

Willens represented the Northern Marianas people in 1972 in negotiations with the U.S. regarding the terms under which they became U.S. citizens and a commonwealth under U.S. sovereignty. He also served as lead counsel to the First and Third Marianas Constitutional Conventions in 1976 and in 1995 to 1996.

Willens, a constitutional expert, has since been providing free professional legal services to the Office of the Governor as requested by the governor.

He has practiced law in Washington, D.C. in both the public and private sectors. He served as deputy assistant attorney general in the

Criminal Division of the U.S. Department of Justice, assistant counsel to the President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy, and as executive director of the President's Commission on Crime in the District of Columbia.

He and his wife Deanne C. Siemer also co-authored *National Security and Self-Determination: United States Poli-*

PENSION

From Page 1

owes the Fund over \$231 million in unpaid employer's contributions. This amount has increased to over \$300 million.

Negotiating panels from both the Fund and the administration are working on a payment plan to satisfy this court judgment, including introducing a pension obligation bond that voters junked barely two months ago.

But the Legislature and the Fitial administration said the initiative was rejected mainly because of lack of proper education on the proposal.

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) said the administration, the Legislature and the Fund will be working together on the reintroduction of a pension obligation bond.

"There was an agreement to put back the pension obligation bond on the ballot. ...It may be ready by the next House session," Manglona (Ind-Rota) said in an interview after the closed-door leadership meeting on Friday.

Rep. Joe Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan), author of the defeated House Legislative Initiative 17-1, said the new version of the initiative will be "up to the [Fitial] administration."

"The new version is theirs," Deleon Guerrero told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said the administration wants to move this initiative forward.

"But we want to make sure there's enough public education about it this time," he added.

Rep. Tony Sablan (R-Saipan) said lawmakers share the sentiment that one of the major reasons why voters rejected HLI 17-1 during the Nov. 2, 2010, election was a lack of education on what the measure intends to do.

"We believe it went on the ballot without proper education," he said.

Two parts

Sablan, a freshman lawmaker, said the move to reintroduce a similar initiative has two parts to it.

The first step is to authorize the bond float by way of introducing the initiative and presenting it to voters.

Once voters approve it, the second part is to decide how much in pension obligation bond will be floated.

"The original plan was to float up to \$200 million. It looks like the same amount is being looked at," Sablan said.

When asked if he personally supports the initiative, Sablan said it is incumbent on leaders to help save the Fund.

"We don't want people to wake up one day and see that the Retirement Fund is already bankrupt or gone," he said.

Fund's lifespan: 7 to 9 years

Villagomez warned of the Fund's alarmingly short lifespan in his comments on a proposal to tap 100 percent of hotel occupancy tax and bar tax to

pay for a \$6.2 million incentive plan for travel agents that bring in Japanese tourists from Osaka and Nagoya during so-called death valley periods, when arrivals are at their lowest rate.

Sablan's OGA requests aim to bring to light any abuses of public funds or the CNMI procurement process that may have occurred, and take further action as necessary.

pay for a \$6.2 million incentive plan for travel agents that bring in Japanese tourists from Osaka and Nagoya during so-called death valley periods, when arrivals are at their lowest rate.

"The status quo includes these tax payments in the court order," Villagomez said.

Under a 2009 court order, 30 percent of the hotel occupancy tax and 20 percent of the bar tax are already reserved for government payment of its debt to the Fund.

But a tourism bill wants to tap all the collections from these two taxes.

The Fitial administration and the Legislature are thus revising the tourism bill so as not to encroach on the court-ordered payments to the Fund.

The Fund currently receives close to \$100,000 a month or \$1.2 million a year from these tax payments.

"Ceasing these payments would reduce the lifespan of the Fund to an even shorter period," Villagomez told House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) in a Jan. 18 letter, a copy of which was obtained from Sablan's office on Friday.

The Fund pays out over \$60 million in pension annually, more than \$50 million of which is spent in the CNMI.

Villagomez said preserving the Fund's ability to continue paying annuities is a huge investment in the economy.

"In addition, if the Fund is no longer able to make pension payments, the CNMI government must continue to make pension payments from the general fund, which would most likely result in indirect but crippling effect on our CNMI," he said.

Special election or not?

Sablan said the administration and lawmakers have yet to decide whether to hold a special election for the pension obligation bond initiative this year when it passes the Legislature, or wait for the 2012 general elections.

To date, only one initiative is with the Commonwealth Election Commission: House Legislative Initiative 17-2, which calls for an elected attorney general.

"We're still looking at costs," Sablan said, referring to the costs that will be incurred by holding a special election just to be able to put the pension obligation bond initiative before voters.

The second consideration is that there may be low voter turnout for a special election for the POB initiative because voters are more keen on voting for elected officials than on initiatives—as shown in previous elections.

Sablan said the most important consideration is whether the government could provide enough educational campaign on the initiative, so that voters could make an educated decision when they go to the polls.

Lawmakers at Friday's closed-door meeting said there was no mention at the meeting on any initiative to allow casino operation on Saipan.

Another initiative still pending at the Legislature—to amend Article 12—may also be considered, if there's going to be a special election for initiatives alone, for cost-effectiveness.



BEACH CLEANUP

Mariana Islands Nature Alliance executive director Sam Sablan and Division of Environmental Quality Safe Drinking Water Program manager Joe Kaipat pose beside the truckload of trash collected during a beach cleanup yesterday morning. **See story on Page 8**

CLARISSA V. DAVID

UNDERAGE

From Page 1

of juveniles at the detention unit, the total number remains alarming for the agency.

He also noted the that more youths are engaging in underage drinking and possession of illegal drugs, compared

to mostly theft and burglary cases in 2009.

He said the department will continue collaborating with other regulatory agencies to further protect the youth and curb the number of juveniles detained at the Kagman detention center.

"Besides informational sessions, the department will study and review the patterns for each offense committed

by our youths and formulate plans to resolve them," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

The government has formed an enforcing underage drinking laws task force, composed of five different agencies, to combat, prevent, and reduce underage drinking in the CNMI.

In addition, stricter penalties are being proposed for those who violate the underage drinking law.

identify the offices on Tinian that may soon be disconnected.

"CUC forwarded a list of potential government disconnects on the island of Tinian to the Executive Office. The administration is currently reviewing the list. We have agreed to hold the disconnections until next Monday," the CUC statement said, adding that the agency is working with the Executive Office in an effort to minimize disruption of services.

According to CUC executive director Abe Utu Malae, disconnections are ongoing to all its customers.

"Disconnections are ongoing for all customer classes whether residential, commercial or government. If there is a delay in central government payroll, we offer extensions to affected government employees," he said.

But for government accounts, he said CUC is working closely with the Finance Department and the Governor's Office.

"For example, [today] we have a list of Tinian government offices that are considered non-critical. The list was

sent to Capital Hill for review and vetting before we disconnect. ...That is how the system works," added Malae.

CUC has yet to say how much Tinian government offices owe CUC in power and water billings.

CUC earlier disclosed that nearly \$4 million was not being collected from its biggest customers as a result of cash-flow problems. These include the central government, the Public School System, and the Northern Marianas College—the top three biggest clients that have the highest delinquencies in CUC's accounts.

In an earlier interview with press secretary, Angel Demapan, he said "the findings of the ongoing review will largely dictate the necessary steps the administration will take to best address the issue."

CUC recently increased its power rates by 15 percent as a result of high fuel prices. With this rate adjustment, it is expected that more and more of CUC's customers will be incurring higher arrears, including the government.

CUC

From Page 1

Saipan Tribune in a statement issued Friday, saying the Finance Department released the amount to CUC on Jan. 19, bringing the central government's accounts current through September 2010.

As of December 2010 billing, the central government owed about \$2.5 million to the utilities corporation. Because of non-payment, power and water lines to many departments and agencies were cut off—mostly to non-essential offices as classified by the Executive Branch.

CUC confirmed Friday that a new disconnection list has been submitted to the Executive Branch for review. This time, it covers government offices and departments on Tinian.

CUC was supposed to go ahead and cut these offices' power lines but the utility firm decided to delay it for another week pending word from the administration. The agency declined to

IN AMENDING THE ANTI-SMOKING LAW

Senate yet to decide whether to pass Froilan's or Crisostimo's bill version

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidEE_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Senate is still considering whether to act on Rep. Froilan Tenorio's (Cov-Saipan) bill or that of Sen. Luis Crisostimo's (D-Saipan), both of which seeks to amend the anti-smoking law.

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) said this was one of the key issues discussed in the closed-door meeting be-

tween lawmakers and acting governor Eloy S. Inos on Friday.

Tenorio's bill, which passed the House on Jan. 13, increases from 20 percent to 80 percent the number of rooms at each hotel that can be designated as smoking areas. Crisostimo's bill, which the author said he will amend, seeks to increase this number to just 30.

Crisostimo, in an interview, said he is revising his bill to

clarify that smoking can be allowed in hotel balconies.

His bill, still pending at the Senate, seeks to expand the areas where smoking can be allowed, including bars provided that "the area has full ventilation."

Sen. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan), chairman of the Senate Committee on Health, said if it were up to him, he would like to see Tenorio's bill acted on, but amend it first, to lower the percentage

of rooms that can be designated smoking rooms at hotels.

"The former speaker's proposal is to increase it to 80 percent. I'd say we should increase it to only 30 percent or 40 percent," Torres told *Saipan Tribune*.

Torres said health advocates expressed concern about proposals to amend the anti-smoking law, less than two years since it was signed into law.

Crisostimo, for his part, said he will convince his colleagues at the Senate to act on his bill instead.

"I've been a lawmaker for six years. None of my bills has been signed into law yet," he said.

Signed on Sept. 29, 2009, Public Law 16-46 or the Smoke-Free Air Act of 2008 bans smoking in many public areas in the CNMI.

Under the sweeping anti-smoking law, smoking is prohibited in government facilities, all enclosed areas, and outdoor areas within 25 feet of any doorway entrance or exit to a government facility.

It also bans smoking in all enclosed areas of public places, including areas available to the general public and other common-use areas.

Man who beat up infant gets probation

The Superior Court has imposed a three-year probation sentence on a man who beat up a baby on Tinian last year.

Associate Judge David Wiseman sentenced Jose M. Borja to one year in prison, all suspended, for assault and battery.

Wiseman placed the 50-year-old Borja on probation for three years and required him to perform 50 hours of community service.

The judge also ordered Borja to pay a \$100 fine, \$25 court

assessment fee, and \$25 in restitution to cover the cost of the child's medical bills.

Wiseman required Borja to create a college fund through a bank and contribute \$4,000 to be held in trust for the child.

A review hearing to determine whether Borja has complied with all the conditions of his sentence will be on June 10, 2011, at the Tinian Superior Court.

The Office of the Attorney General had charged Borja with

three counts of assault and battery, one count of child abuse, and three counts of disturbing the peace.

Borja pleaded guilty to a count of assault and battery as part of a plea bargain. The remaining charges were dismissed. He was represented by lawyer Janet King.

Police said that Borja beat up the child, who was then seven months old, on Jan. 8, 2010 on Tinian. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

Lemieux retires as federal court's courtroom deputy

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Lynn Lemieux has retired from the federal court after serving as a courtroom deputy for 15 years.

"It was a very difficult decision to retire from the federal court because of all the wonderful people I have worked with throughout the years. I will miss them very much," Lemieux told *Saipan Tribune* on Friday.

Lemieux's last official day in office at the U.S. District

Court for the NMI was last Dec. 20. She began working for the federal court as courtroom deputy in 1995.



Lemieux

"I am retiring because it is time to go on a new adventure," she said, adding that she and her husband Steve are not leaving the island in the near future.

She said if they do leave, they plan to go back to Oahu, Hawaii, where their children and grandchildren live.

"No immediate plans. I just

want to enjoy my time and travel," Lemieux said.

The couple first came to Saipan in November 1986.

Other than visiting judges, Lemieux has only worked for former U.S. District Court for the NMI Judge Alex R. Munson.

Munson banged the gavel for the last time on Feb. 26, 2010, slipping into retirement after serving the bench for more than two decades.

Five months later, after 24 years, Randy K.R. Schmidt also retired as the longest serving law clerk for the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

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Point of Contact: Fr. Rey Rosal 235-8208

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Federal judge says a written ruling is forthcoming

The federal court has placed under advisement the motion filed by former lieutenant governor Timothy P. Villagomez, former Commerce Secretary James A. Santos, and his wife, Joaquina V. Santos, that seeks their release from prison pending their appeal.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Michael W. Mosman said a written decision would be forthcoming.

At the hearing on Thursday, attorneys Donald Horgan, David Lujan, Dennis Riordan, and Leilani Lujan, appeared telephonically on behalf of Villagomez. Attorney Ramon Quichocho appeared for Joaquina Santos, while attorney Victorino Torres represented James Santos.

Horgan argued on behalf of

the defendants. Assistant U.S. Attorney Eric O'Malley argued for the U.S. government's opposition to the motion.

Villagomez and the Santoses had asked the federal court to release them on bail pending the conclusion of their appeal in the Ninth Circuit.

They asserted that they are not a flight risk or a danger to the public if released. They also argued that precedent requires that they present a "fairly debatable" appellate question in order to secure a release order.

In opposing the release, O'Malley said the federal court has completed its job of "fact finding," and that as designated judge Mark W. Bennett declared in a Nov. 24, 2010 order, he has left the "legal implications" of his findings for the Ninth Cir-

cuit to assess.

As such, O'Malley said, the Ninth Circuit may be better positioned to assess the likelihood outcome for Villagomez's and Santos couple's claim and their motion for release.

That Nov. 9 and 10, 2010, hearings had sought to determine whether or not then federal court judge Alex R. Munson closed to the public the jury selection in the Villagomez trial.

After the hearing, Bennett ruled that there was no order from either Munson or the U.S. Marshal's Office to bar members of the public or family members from the courtroom during the jury selection.

Bennett, however, determined that there was "simply no credible evidence" that any

members of the public were allowed into the courtroom at any time during jury selection.

The defendants had sought to settle the record so they could bolster their assertions—on appeal in the Ninth Circuit—that their constitutional rights were violated when the public was excluded from jury selection. If there was a violation, the defendants believe this could ultimately reverse their convictions.

Villagomez and the Santos couple are now serving their sentences in federal prison after they jury found them guilty of all charges relating to a scheme to defraud the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. through needless purchases of a de-scaling chemical called Rydlyme. **(Ferdie de la Torre)**

Tinian ports chief backs Lifofoi's reappointment to the CPA board

The Commonwealth Ports Authority Tinian ports manager has expressed his support for businessman Jose R. Lifofoi's reappointment to the board of directors.

"I have known Mr. Lifofoi for more than 30 years and throughout the years he has shown a deep sense of propriety and respect to the CNMI and its community," said Joseph M. Mendiola in a letter to Senate President Paul Manglona.

Lifofoi, who was reappointed by acting governor Eloy S. Inos, will serve another four-year term at the autonomous agency should the Senate confirm his reappointment.

According to Mendiola, Lifofoi has been instrumental in the development of the CPA be-

cause of his keen understanding of the agency's needs.

"The CNMI will be very fortunate to have him continue his tenure as a member of the CPA board," he said.

With the islands' present economic situation, Mendiola said it is essential that the Senate support and approve the appointments to boards and commissions of individuals who are instrumental in overcoming the challenges facing the government.

"Chairman Jose R. Lifofoi is more than knowledgeable and capable to be a member of the CPA board of directors, and I am certain that he will work cooperatively with other CNMI agencies in attaining our economic aspirations," he added. **(Clarissa David)**

Fitial ends 2-week trip to Hong Kong, Taiwan

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial is back on island, after a two-week unofficial trip to Hong Kong and Taiwan from Jan. 9 to 23.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said Fitial was expected to arrive yesterday.

Fitial paid for his trip to travel to Hong Kong from Jan. 9 to 15, mainly to attend the 45th anniversary celebration of Luen Thai, the parent company of Tan Holdings Corp., Demapan had said.

From Hong Kong, Fitial went

to Taipei, Taiwan to promote the CNMI as an educational tourism site. The governor's visit to Taiwan is at the invitation of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Guam.

The governor was accompa-

nied by his wife, first lady Josie Fitial, on this trip.

Demapan said he has yet to discuss with the governor his trip.

Prior to his Hong Kong and Taiwan trips, Fitial also went to Palau to attend the Dec. 15 to 17 Micronesian Chief Executives' Summit. **(Haidee V. Eugenio)**

Co-owner of defunct remittance center needs to find new lawyer

The counsel for Haydn L. Villegas, a co-owner of a former remittance center who has been indicted for his role in an alleged conspiracy to defraud a

Philippine bank, has asked the federal court to allow him to withdraw from the case.

Attorney Joey P. San Nicolas notified the U.S. District Court for the NMI on Thursday that after he recently received an offer to work in Guam, he immediately advised the court of the possibility of his relocation.

San Nicolas said he accepted the job offer last Wednesday and again advised the court and the U.S. government about it.

"Defendant Haydn Villegas would be best served if another attorney were appointed to represent him given the fact that I will be relocating to Guam within the very near future," said the lawyer in his declaration.

Villegas recently pleaded not guilty to the indictment that charged him with conspiracy.

The jury trial will start on Feb. 28, 2011, at 9am.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge David A. Wiseman originally set a Jan. 20, 2011, deadline for the prosecution and defense to file pretrial motions but on Friday, U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Michael W. Mosman moved the deadline to Jan. 27, 2011.

The prosecution and Villegas agreed to the new deadline in order to allow Villegas "sufficient time to provide any reciprocal discovery to and to consider any offer from the government."

According to the indictment, the scheme to defraud began in November 2004 when Haydn Villegas and Ana Maria V. Villegas, then co-owners of Philippine Express Remittance, started passing checks drawn on insufficient funds at PNB Express, a subsidiary of Philippine National Bank.

Although a number of the checks of Haydn Villegas and Ana Villegas were returned as unpaid, Armilaine Salamat, manager of PNB Express, allegedly continued accepting checks drawn on the two's Saipan bank accounts. **(Ferdie de la Torre)**



*The honor of your presence is requested
to meet your U.S. Congressman*

to discuss constituent issues with

Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan

112th Congress

United States House of Representatives

Friday, January 28, 2011

9:30 am.

Hopwood Jr. High School

New institute aims to become advanced after-school center

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A new academic institute that caters to all children and adults opened Saturday in San Jose with the goal of making it the first advanced after-school center on Saipan.

The Advanced Language & Academic Institute, or ALAI, was founded by couple Nina Rivera and David Baker who serve as the center's principal and vice principal respectively.

In an open house held Saturday at its location in San Jose, school officials formally introduced about 20 faculty members and the different courses and programs that are available for enrollees.

Despite the economic hardship on island, Rivera said they opted to establish the institute because they see the need to have one.

"We saw the need for an actual tutorial center that would help continue education after school. I am aware that there are places that [provide] such services... but so far I haven't heard of anything that actually improves the grades of students. This also allows us to reach to the community," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

ALAI's programs and services, according to Rivera, will be aligned with the Public School System's standards and benchmarks. She pointed out the insti-



CLARISSA DAVID

The faculty and management of the newly opened Advanced Language & Academic Institute pose for a group photo during their open house last Saturday in San Jose office. The new facility caters to elementary to high school students and offers classes for adults and other enrollees.

tute's strong collaboration with classroom teachers.

"When we started meeting with PSS principals, they were very receptive to the idea and they really wanted to see improvements in their kids at the tutorial center," she said.

When asked to compare its services to other learning centers on island, Rivera cited the institute's small class sizes for every session and its unified curriculum.

Saipan Tribune learned that ALAI has a maximum of just three students-per-teacher ra-

tio for pre-school classes and a maximum of five students for other tutorial programs and other services.

Rivera said that ALAI's small class sizes provide each student with an individualized approach that takes advantage of the student's ability.

As of this week, ALAI has about 50 students. Its location on the second floor of Payless Shoes in San Jose can accommodate a total of 200 enrollees in different schedules. The facility has five classrooms, an of-

fice, and a homework room. It will soon open another wing for the language center.

Rivera said their target markets are elementary to high school students and they also offer pre-school sessions and classes for adults but their biggest market is the after-school program.

ALAI's assessment

According to Rivera, one of the principal benefits of ALAI's tutorial programs is that they regularly test the child's learning to ensure that they retain the

material covered. "This gives parents the peace of mind that their child's time at ALAI is being maximized and that all of their learning needs are being addressed."

Besides academic programs, the school aim to offer additional sessions such as arts and music that will make the institute a complete after-school center.

"We're trying our best be not overly expensive but at the same time, it is an investment. Parents have to think that way...because of our qualified teachers and the

amount of work we will put in to their children. What we basically offering is a specialized and personalized academic program for each child," said Rivera.

ALAI will also provide monthly progress reports of each student and will maintain communication with the child's classroom teacher to bridge learning.

"We're not here just to make profit...this is a bonafide educational facility that will help children to achieve higher academic performance," she added.

USCG, search crews look for two missing Guam fishermen

GUAM—Coast Guard, Guam Police Department, and Guam Fire Department crews are searching for two missing fishermen in the vicinity of First Beach, Ipan, Talofofo, Guam Sunday.

Rescue crews from the Coast Guard cutter *Washington*, Guam Fire Rescue 2, Guam Fire Rescue 3, Guam Police Department, and Navy Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25 are searching for Joseph Castro, 26, and Evan Paulino, 25.

Castro was last seen wearing light colored shorts and Paulino was last seen to be wearing a dark shirt, khaki shorts, and flippers.

Guam Fire Rescue contacted

Rescue Command Center Guam at about 10:15pm Saturday. RCC Guam requested a Navy HSC-25 aircrew to search five hours of the night. Guam Police Department and Guam Fire Department conducted shoreline searches. The Coast Guard cutter *Washington* arrived on scene around 9am Sunday to assist.

Weather on scene is reported to be 6 to 8-foot seas and 17 mph winds.

The Coast Guard will continue to search throughout the night.

Anyone with information about the missing men should immediately contact Guam Coast Guard Sector Command Center at 671-564-8724. (USCG)

Air Force sets FDM training

SANTA RITA, Guam—The U.S. Air Force will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla on the following dates and times:

- Jan. 25 from 10:30 a.m.-6 p.m.
- Jan. 26 from 9 a.m.-6 p.m.
- Jan. 27-28 from 10:30 a.m.-6 p.m.

The general public, especially fisherman, commercial pilots and marine tour operators, are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants. Farallon de Medinilla plays a special and unique role in national defense because its location provides access frequency that supports established training requirements. In addition, the air and sea space in the Farallon provides sufficient room for the many different attack profiles necessary to replicate training opportunities in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. (USN)



Please Support & Re-Elect Emanuel "Manny" Mori for Chuuk Senator at-Large

Join us for lunch, meet Senator Mori & show your support!

Date: Friday, January 28, 2011

Time: 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Where: Hibiscus Hall, Fiesta Resort & Spa

For more information and to purchase tickets please contact Jimbo at 789-8768 or Ruri at 483-7832

**Join the President for Mass at Kristo Rai Church
on Friday, January 28, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.**

**A meeting with the Chuukese Community will
commence at 7:30 p.m. at the Multi-Purpose Center.**

Thank you for your support!

Commonwealth I Sankattan Siha Na Islas Mariana
Ofisinan I Gubietno
Dipattamenton I Tano' Pubpliku

NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEASE EXTENSION FOR PUBLIC LAND

In accordance with Section 106 (a) and (b) of Public Law 15-2, the Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent to recommend the extension of a lease on certain public land in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. This lease extension is subject to the approval of the Northern Mariana Islands Commonwealth Legislature in accordance with the mandate set out in Article XI, § 5(c) of the Constitution of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any interested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the lease of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 15-2, the following pertinent information is required to be published.

- i. The leased premises is described as public land Lot No. 151 R 01, containing an area of approximately 8,049 square meters, more or less, situated in Sabana, Rota. A copy of the location of the parcel is available at the Department of Public Lands for inspection.
- ii. The lessee is Micronesian Telecommunications Corporation d.b.a. IT&E, a CNMI Corporation. The Board of Directors of the Corporation are Ricardo C. Delgado, Jovino G. Lorenzo, Jr., Jose Ricardo PR Delgado, E. Norbert Garrett, Robert R. Anderson, Jose S. Dela Cruz, John Noel Doherty, Keiji Ikemura, and Masao Miyamoto.

The President of the Corporation is Jose Ricardo PR Delgado. The Treasurer is Lawrence P. Knecht. The Secretary is Fe D. Vicencio.

- iii. The proposed lease extension was negotiated by Mr. Lawrence P. Knecht.

- iv. The lessee shall continue to use the premises solely for the purpose of maintaining and operating telecommunications transmitters, antennas, and activities related thereto.

The term of the lease agreement extension is 15 years.

- v. Copies of the proposed lease extension agreements may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan; in Songsong, Rota; or the 1st floor of the Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.

- vi. The Department of Public Lands has received no alternative proposals to lease the subject public lands in Sabana, Rota.

- vii. The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views, arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before February 4, 2011 at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian.

NOTISIA POT MAPROPONEN INEKSTENDEN INATKILON TANO' PUPBLIKU

Sigun gi Seksiona 106(a) yan (b) gi Lain Pubpliku 15-2, i Dipattamenton Tano' Pubpliku guini ha nã'i notisia ni intesion-ña para u rekomenda i inekstenden inatkilon gi pumalu na tãno' pubpliku siha giya Saipan, Commonwealth gi Sangkattan na Isla Marianas siha. Este na inekstenden atkilon siha manmasuheto para i inapruuban i Lehislaturan Commonwealth gi Sangkattan na Islan Marianas gi sigun ni mamãnda ni mapega huyong gi Attikilu XI, § 5(c) gi Konstitusion i Sangkattan na Islan Marianas siha. Maseha hãyi na petsona siha gi halom i pubpliku henerãt siña ha na'hãlom i imfotmasion, opiñon, pat testamoñon kinentra siha gi tinahguen propositu siha ni para i atkilon tãno' pubpliku. Sigi mäs mo'na mapribeniyi ginen i Lain Pubpliku 15-2, i tinattitiyi pettanesen imfotmasion ni madimãnda ni debi na u mapupblika.

- i. I lugãt atkilon siha madeskribe komu tano' pubpliku Lot No. 151 R 01, kinonsiste ãrian kãsi guaha 8,049 square meters, potlumenus mäs, ni gaige gi Sabãna Luta. I kopian i pumalu na lugãt gaige na gumuaha gi Dipattamenton Tano' Pubpliku siha ni para i rikonosimiento.
- ii. I manatikikila i Micronesian Telecommunications Corporation d.b.a. IT & E, i CNMI na Korporasion. I Kuetpon i Direktot siha gi Korporasion si Ricardo C. Delgado, Jovino G. Lorenzo, Jr., Jose Ricardo PR Delgado, E. Norbert Garrett, Robert R. Anderson, Jose S. Dela Cruz, John Noel Doherty, Keiji Ikemura, yan si Masao Miyamoto.

I Presidenten i Korporasion si Ricardo PR Delgado. I Tresurãrio si Lawrence P. Knecht. I Sekritãrio si Fe D. Vecencio.

- iii. I mapropone na ekstension atkilon manegosio gi as Siñot Lawrence P. Knecht.

- iv. I manatikikila debi na u kontinua umusa i lugãt siha uniku para i rason i maneran maintaining yan operating telecommunications transmitters, antennas yan maseha hãfa na mana'achule' na aktibidãt siha guihi.

I teman i kontrãtan atkilon ha ekstende gi 15 ãños.

- v. Kopian i manmapropone na ekstension atkilon na kontrãta siha siña machule' gi ofisinan i Dipattamenton Tano' Pubpliku siha, gaige gi segundo bibienda 2nd floor gi Joeten Dandan Commercial Building giya Dandan, Saipan; Songsong, Luta; pat i primet 1st floor gi Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.

- vi. I Dipattamenton Tano' Pubpliku siha tãya' ha risibi tinahguen propositu siha para suheton atkilon tãno' pubpliku siha gi Sabãna, Luta.

- vii. I Sekritãron i Dipattamenton Tano' Pubpliku siha debi na u akseptã i tinige' i imfotmasion, opiñon yan testamoñon kinentra pat tinahguen propositu siha ginen i manggai interes na pattida siha gi pat ãntes di Fibreru 4, 2011 gi ofisinan Dipattamenton Tano' Pubpliku siha ni gaige Saipan, Luta, pat Tinian.

ARONGORONG REEL POMWOL AKKILONUL FALÚWEER TOULAP

Sãngi Tãlil ye 106 (b) mellól Alléghúl Toulap 15-2, Bwulasiyool Ammwilil Falúweer Toulap ekke atotoowow ammataf igha ebwe akkilaaló eghús falúw mellól Seipel, Commonwealth Téél Falúwasch Marianas. Akkilon yeel nge ebwe mwir sangi alughulughul Sow Ffeerul Allegh mellol Commonwealth Northern Mariana Islands iye e alléghewow mellól Article XI, Tãlil 5(c) mellól Allégh Lapalap Northern Mariana Islands. Schóókka eyoor máfiyeer nge rebwe isisilong aghiyyhiir, awewee, aingiingil reel pomwol akkilonul ammwelil falúweer toulap mebwal Alléghúl Toulap ye 15-2, e ayoora, lamal awewee kka rebwe mweiti ngáli milikka ebwe akkatééló.

- i. Pomwol akkilonul falúweer toulap nge ekke bwáári Lot No. 151 R 01, ebwe eyoor walangaras ebwughuw faigh me tiwoow (8, 049), elapeló me ngäre eghús, elo Sabana Luuta. Tilighial bwuley yeel nge eyoor mereel Bwulasiyool Falúweer Toulap (Public Lands) ngäre óubwe ghuley fischiy.

- ii. Schéschéél schóól akkilon nge Micronesian Corporation d.b.a. IT&E CNMI Corporation. Mwiischil assamwool kkaal mellol Corporation nge Richard C. Delgado, Juvino G. Lorenzo, Jr., Jose Ricardo PR Delgado, E. Norbert Garrett, Robert R. Anderson, Jose S. Dela Cruz, John Noel Doherty, Keiji Ikemura, me Masao Miyamoto.

Samwoolul Corporation nge Jose Ricardo PR Delgado. Treasurer nge Lawrence P. Knecht. Sekkeretoria nge Fe D. Vicencio

- iii. Schóól aweweel pomwol akkilon ye e sobwosobw nge Mr Lawrence P. Knecht.

- iv. Schóól akkilon ebwe ammwela bwuley me ayoora Telecommunications transmitters, antennas, me lamal kka eyoor Tool aighúghúl pomwol akkilon nge reweigh me limoow ráágh (25 years)

- v. Tilighial akkilon yeel nge emmwel óubwe bwughi mereel bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap, elo aruwowal pwó (2nd floor) me Joeten Dandan Commercial Building Ilol Tuturam, Seipél; aruwowal pwó (2nd floor) mellól Songsong, Luuta; me ngäre mmwal pwó (1st floor) mellól Kings Commercial Building, Tchúlúyól.

- vi. Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge esáál bweibwogh mwo pomwol akkilon ye elo Lower Base, Seipel..

- vii. Samwoolul Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge ebwe bwughil ischil mángemáng, aingiingil mereel amweyút mmwal Máãischigh (February) 4, 2011 mellól Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap iye elo Seipél, Luuta, Tchúlúyól.

‘Sharkwater’ director, volunteers conduct Sunday beach cleanup

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rob Stewart, the acclaimed director of the documentary *Sharkwater*, joined some 30 volunteers during the beach cleanup behind Aquarius Beach Towers in Chalan Kanoa yesterday morning.

The volunteers collected a truckload or about 120 lbs of trash from the beach down by the Sugar Dock and all the way to the Aquarius beach.

Having participated in a recent beach cleanup in Hong Kong, Stewart noted the importance of doing beach cleanups regularly.

“It shows a great sense of care and investment in your land,” Stewart told *Saipan Tribune*.

Organized by the Mariana Island Nature Alliance, the celebrity beach cleanup involved the participation of mostly students, including members of Island Sk8 Society, Saipan Southern High School, and Beautify CNMI.

“It was a good activity especially since a lot of the volunteers were students and teens,” MINA executive director Sam Sablan said in an interview.

According to Sablan, they planned the cleanup as a three-hour activity but that the young volunteers were so swift that they carried out the task in two hours.

“They’ve been active with MINA activities and they volunteered for the beach cleanup right away,” she added.

Sablan disclosed that Stewart’s participation in the cleanup was significant for the young volunteers as he talked to them about caring for the environment as well as his film.

The *Sharkwater* director discussed the importance of preserving sharks because the exploitation and corruption of the shark-hunting industry in certain countries are driving these creatures to extinction.

“The filming of *Sharkwater* took five years and 15 countries and nearly killed me about half a dozen times,” he said.

Stewart, who will be staying on Saipan for a week, said his visit is also meant to show support for a bill that seeks to prohibit any person from possessing, selling, offering for sale, trading, or distributing shark fins in the CNMI.

The House of Representatives passed on Jan. 10 House Bill 17-94, which now awaits the governor’s action.

Sablan said the beach cleanup is part of their Marine Debris program, adding that there will be more activities in the future to encourage community members to do their part in protecting the environment.

Flashback
A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Jan. 24, 2000

Teno rejects plan to increase fines for businesses without license

Saying the Legislature had overlooked a similar law already in place, Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio has disapproved a measure seeking to penalize violators of a regulation requiring businesses to obtain government license. He said that since Public Law 11-73 enacted last year has imposed penalty to businessmen found operating without a valid license, the Legislature should have instead amended its provisions to increase the fines. Under that law, businessmen found selling merchandise or providing services for compensation without a valid business permit will be fined \$500 and additional \$100 per day for continual violation.

Tobacco laws deprive youth jobs in retail stores—Teno

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio has expressed concern over the restrictive local tobacco laws, saying these have deprived the youth the opportunity to work at retail establishments as they are prohibited from handling and selling tobacco products. He urged the Legislature to review further Public Law 11-75 to amend provisions that will lessen the impact on employment for minors under 18 years old in stores where tobacco products are sold. “This age requirement has significantly decreased the job opportunities for our youth seeking part-time or summer employment,” said the governor in a letter to presiding officers of the Legislature.

Jan. 24, 2001

DLNR looks at assuming management of tour sites

Officials of the Department of Land and Natural Resources are currently reviewing the proposal submitted by the Legislature on the possible transfer to the agency of the responsibility to maintain all public parks and tourist sites. Under pending proposals, the Division of Parks and Grounds of the DLNR and the Marianas Visitors Authority are both tasked to perform grounds maintenance at various public sites. By letting a single agency to handle the maintenance work, House Rep. Antonio M. Camacho said the potential overlapping and duplication of efforts will be totally eliminated.

DYS running impatient on AG’s review of CNMI criminal code

Officials of the Division of Youth Services has expressed disdain over the long period of evaluation and review that the Attorney General’s Office has been spending on the proposed revision of the CNMI Criminal Code. The DYS urged the AG and the Legislature to expedite the process so that the CNMI can effectively mete penalties equivalent to the severity of different criminal cases. Well-placed sources at the division disclosed that for more than three years, the DYS has not received a word from the Legislature and later on from the AGO to which the evaluation was tossed following a request to thoroughly inspect the set of laws to be meted against a felon, both adults and juvenile.

Jan. 24, 2002

OPA looks into Group Health regs

The Office of the Public Auditor has begun meeting with different health providers in the CNMI, as it subjects to a preliminary review the proposed changes in the rules and regulations governing the Group Health and Life Insurance Program. In line with this, Public Auditor Michael S. Sablan said he would soon be initiating a meeting with House Speaker Heinz S. Hofschneider and Rep. Benjamin Seman to discuss the scope and limitations of the OPA review on the proposed regulation changes. “We have done some preliminary work but before we get too far on this project, what I would really like to do is sit down again with the Speaker and the chairman of the House Committee on Health and Welfare to make sure that we have the scope defined to meet their [lawmakers] needs,” said Sablan.

Rota, Tinian senators agree to compromise on budget

Faced with a sharp reduction in projected revenues, the Tinian and Rota senatorial delegations have reportedly softened their stance toward their share of the budget, agreeing to a possible allocation of less than \$15 million each. According to Rota Sen. Ricardo S. Atalig, the projected \$193.37 million revenue for Fiscal Year 2002 has forced everyone to reassess their projected share in the budget. “We have to stay within our means. You cannot ask for \$17 million when you can only have \$13 million. That’s the reality. You can only spend the amount of money that is in your pocket and no more than that,” said Atalig.

GIG's Nuts Night a success



PHOTOS BY CLARISSA V. DAVID

Local partygoers dance the night away at GIG Saturday night.



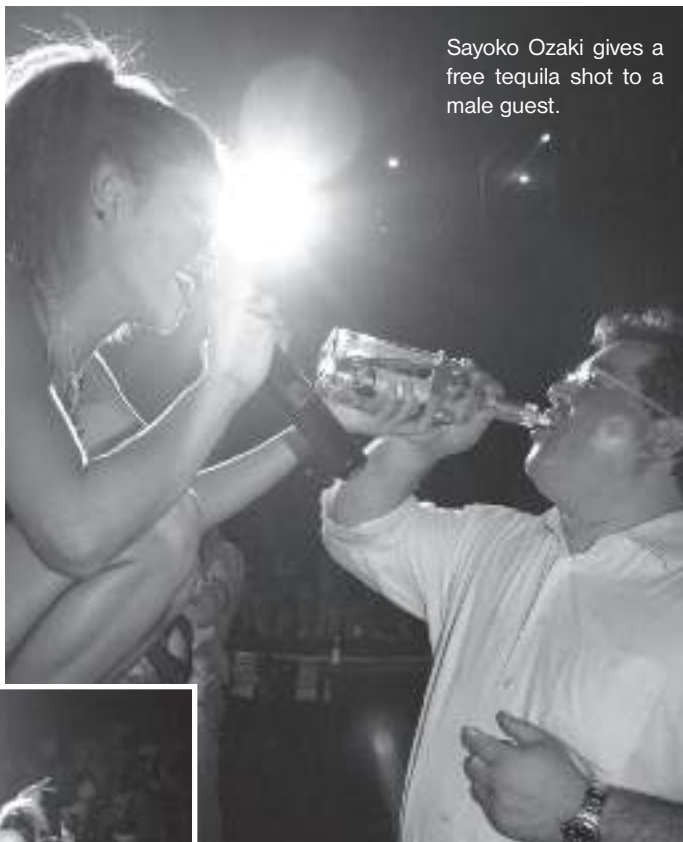
Sayoko Ozaki shows off her moves on the catwalk.



Saipan model Deriel Aldan joins Japanese models Sayoko Ozaki and Akane Satomi on stage.



Sayoko Ozaki strikes a sexy pose as translator Ayuko Iwane looks on.



Sayoko Ozaki gives a free tequila shot to a male guest.



Male guests at GIG pose with the models on stage.

Akane Satomi, center, smiles for the camera as Sayoko Ozaki and Deriel Aldan look on.



By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

GIG, the island's premier night-spot, was jam-packed Saturday night with locals and tourists alike who took part in the "Nuts Night" revelry.



Japanese model Akane Satomi gets ready to strut her stuff.

"Nuts Night," the famed monthly club event for the readers of the Japanese magazine dubbed *Happie nuts*, brought to the island the hottest in Japanese clothing trends via a fashion show highlighted by popular Tokyo fashion models Sayoko Ozaki and Akane Satomi.

About 300 partygoers watched Ozaki and Satomi take turns on the catwalk, along with

two models from Saipan.

Lots of giveaways were provided to club guests, including limited edition Nuts handbags, t-shirts from GIG, cooler, beach chairs, and bottle openers from Budweiser, which was a major sponsor of the event.

The models gave away free tequila shots on the dance floor to add to the fun and cap an awesome night.

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

INVITATION TO BID ITB11-DPL-031

SUBMISSION / OPENING DATE: FEBRUARY 04, 2011 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"JANITORIAL AND CLEANING SERVICES FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE BID IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

/s/ OSCAR M. BABAUTA
SECRETARY OF DPL

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S



INVITATION FOR BIDS WATER TASK FORCE IFB11-GOV-002



Governor Benigno R. Fitial, through the CNMI Water Task Force, are soliciting sealed bids for the TP-1 WATER WELL and WATER LINE CONNECTION in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

A bid guarantee of 15 percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of the Treasury (T-Listed).

The Contractor will be required to submit payment and performance bonds from a US Treasury listed company. The Contractor will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal laws including the Davis Bacon Act.

This project is funded by a grant from the Office of Insular Affairs (OIA), Department of the Interior. The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the project approval from OIA.

The project consists, in general, but is not limited to:

- 1,700 linear feet of 4" diameter water main and appurtenances
- Installation of one wellhead plumbing system, with pump/motor, drop pipe, power line, etc.
- Well pump installation
- Construction of one electrical control building with fencing, gates and slab
- Connection to the existing valving at the Capitol Hill Reservoir

Construct all work in strict accordance with the Plans and Specifications and subject to the terms and conditions of the Contract.

A non-refundable payment of \$300 to CNMI Treasury is required for each set of Plans, Specifications, and Proposal Forms, available on or after **January 10, 2011** at the Water Task Office, 1316 Anatahan Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan. A mandatory pre-bid conference for this project is scheduled at **10:00 a.m., on January 21, 2011**, at the WTF Conference Room, Saipan. A project site visit will be made as a part of the pre-bid meeting.

All inquiries shall be in writing and addressed to Pedro Sasamoto, Program Manager, Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 or faxed to (670) 664-2279. Inquiries must be received no later than 4:30 PM on January 20, 2011.

Bidding Procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, contained in the CNMI Administrative Code, Title 70 Subchapter 70-30.3. Preference is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funds for this project.

Sealed bids must be marked **"IFB11-GOV-002"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 3:00 pm local time **February 8, 2011**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 3:00 pm local time **February 8, 2011**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **February 8, 2011**, and must be received no later than **February 17, 2011**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly open and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 3:00 pm local time, **February 18, 2011**. However, if no Notices of Intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 3:00 pm local time on **February 9, 2011**.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/S/ Benigno R. Fitial,
Governor and Contracting Officer

/S/ Herman S. Sablan
Director, Procurement and Supply

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
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Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Level the playing field

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Pressing China on human rights has to remain a high priority for President Barack Obama during President Hu Jintao's four-day visit to the United States this week. To ignore the fact that Obama's fellow Nobel Peace Prize laureate Liu Xiaobo languishes in a Chinese prison would be hypocritical for a nation dedicated to personal freedom.

But right up there on the agenda should be leveling the playing field for companies competing with Chinese tech rivals. Hu has made promises but has yet to follow through.

While other industries focus on nagging currency issues with China, Silicon Valley companies know they cannot lead the U.S. to economic recovery if Chinese firms continue to violate the basic intellectual property rules that govern the rest of the world.

Hu would like his visit to be a four-day photo op to strengthen his image at home and abroad. Likely to leave office in the next two years, he wants to leave a legacy that he solidified China's relationship with the United States.

That's great—but it should come with a price tag.

Senior Chinese officials pledged to work harder on intellectual property violations during last month's United States-Joint Commission on Commerce and Trade talks. Obama should insist that China do more than just talk. We need to see action.

In short, China has to stop stealing Silicon Valley software.

It's bad enough that China's businesses do this routinely, but government agencies do it, too. No wonder Chinese companies figure there's nothing wrong with committing outright theft of intellectual property.

Obama raised the subject Wednesday. He told Hu that earlier in the day, Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer had said that only one in 10 Chinese customers actually pays for the software giant's intellectual property. U.S. companies can't thrive, or in some cases even survive, when one of the largest world markets is stealing their products willy nilly. China must put an end to it, and Obama should make it clear that if it doesn't, there will be consequences.

China also must put an end to its policy of "indigenous innovation." The most glaring example is its demand that Chinese government officials only procure products containing intellectual property developed and owned in China.

Imagine the European Union, for example, requiring member nations to buy items not just made in Europe but also developed there. It would be ludicrous. Yet China is getting away with it, along with other unfair practices.

The United States is still China's No. 1 export market. At the same time, China holds around \$1 trillion in American bonds. Neither country would benefit from a trade war. But Silicon Valley's future depends in large part on how well Obama fares in the talks this week and in the months ahead.

Leveling the playing field between tech companies in the valley and those rising in power in China will be a measure of Obama's success in this week's historic talks.



Perspectives of who we are

Over the past years I have been afforded the privilege of sharing my thoughts with you. It is an honor. So today I wish to continue the conversation. I welcome your feedback. Again I wish to remind all of us that these articles are written in the hope that they will stimulate us to greater heights and greater endeavor to improve our economy and our happiness. This to me is the goal: to create and operate the economy ourselves. Yes of course, with some investors. But we should be shoulder to shoulder with them, not beneath them.

In the remainder of this article I wish to quote extensively from thoughts shared with me from various observers of the CNMI over a period of time. They are perceptions both from long time residents and visitors. Please accept these perceptive remarks as food for thought. Do not be offended by any of them. They should inspire us to examine ourselves closely. If they are true, we should attempt to correct the perception. If not true, let's get on with the business of succeeding. After reading each statement, mark **true**, **somewhat**, **false** next to each one.

A. There seems to be some form of xenophobic apprehension among some local people that those not of the islands will benefit from an activity or endeavor where "they" (locals) have either failed to achieve success or otherwise did not exhibit the interest, energy, enthusiasm, desire, etc. to implement the endeavor.

B. No initiative, regardless of how worthwhile and beneficial to the community, economy, etc. will ever be embraced by the opposing political party.

C. There is little appreciation or understanding of the need for private investors to make a profit on their capital at risk. There is the widespread impression that foreign investment exploits the island and its indigenous inhabitants.

D. For many landowners and their families the "boom years" of the early eighties saw "easy money" resulting from Japanese land leases. Fortunes were acquired with little effort expended and without any particular skill or educational attainment. This may have served to distort the perspective of many and misled some into thinking that little effort is required to obtain (and sustain) wealth.

E. There is little understanding of the intense competition from other competing areas for investment capital.

F. The acceptance and condoning of nepotism is not seen for what it is—a breeding ground for mediocrity, incompetence and waste. The Commonwealth appears not so much as a government but rather as an "extended family."

G. Nepotism, which is so prevalent, injures an area by favoring families of relatives and clients, by making government institutions mere screens for those family networks to hide behind and by institutionalizing mediocrity. Nepotism destroys the promise of reward for competence, erodes the concept of democratic fairness and equality by reducing those not empowered through family connections to a level of powerless, unorganized plebeians dependent upon favors handed out to those in control of the bureaucracy.

H. There is little understanding of the need to protect the island's reputation as being a stable economic environment within which to do business.

I. The frequent changes and modification of laws affecting busi-

By ANTHONY PELLEGRINO

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Pellegrino is a longtime businessman in the CNMI and is the former president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.



ness and investment gives the impression of a lack of stability with often little realization of the unanticipated, unintended consequences of "band-aid" legislative remedies.

J. There is very little opportunity for a non-indigenous person to participate as an elected representative. By that measure the Commonwealth is not a democratic society inasmuch as such elective positions are normally reserved exclusively for the local population.

K. Tendency to take offense at any attempt to provide constructive criticism.

L. There remains too much over-dependence on family relationships and the related reliance upon patronage and nepotism.

M. There is the continuing cultural proprietary attitude by some in the islands that the land shall remain the undisputed and exclusive domain of the local people.

N. By not being permitted to own land in fee simple, foreign investors and non-indigenous people are deprived of gains resulting from appreciation in land values and security in owning property.

O. There seems to be occasional preoccupation with short-term, self-serving temporary gain at the expense of long-range permanent benefits to the community.

P. In many instances people are placed in government management positions possessing only rudimentary skills and knowledge. This educational deficiency inhibits creative thinking, the ability to make critical analysis or solve problems.

Q. U.S. government financial largess when extended over a long period of time (say, more than 25 years) makes economic cripples of those dependent upon the "handout." Such assistance can become a financial narcotic and sap the desire for economic self-sufficiency. For example, why aren't more commercial businesses owned by local people? Or after injections of more than a billion dollars over a period of a quarter century, why can't potable water be provided to all island areas on a 24-hour basis?

R. Our government has permitted so many nonresident aliens to invest in such a small economy at the expense of depriving its own citizens of the opportunity to enter businesses that should have been reserved for local implementation. We have allowed too many non-U.S. citizens and others to take over the "mom-and-pop" neighborhood stores, gift shops and other small "entry-type" businesses.

S. Geographic isolation has served to limit cultural and economic exposure. Too many local people have been confined to islands

See PERSPECTIVES on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

A life of passion and purpose in the AS-CNMI

We just recycled our copy of the *Passion of the Western Mind* to someone else's living room library. A curious title since the metaphor for the Western Mind is that of scientific objectivity, and passion is considered more as a methodological liability as it is a creative asset. Jean Houston and those in the human potential movement combine passion and purpose as a quality of growth.

Harrison Ford's movie *Extraordinary Measures* tells of biotech entrepreneur John Crowley's attempt to get an enzyme developed to break down his children's sugar so that they may overcome the effects of Pompe disease, a neuromuscular disorder on the body's inability to metabolize sugar.

A management officer in the research company confronts Crowley and his methods that involve parents. He promotes objectivity of scientific research devoid of emotional considerations. Crowley is out to have his children benefit from the research.

"There is an appearance of conflict of interest," the officer declared. Harrison Ford's maverick Dr. Stonehill storms into management to get Crowley "fired" so his children can participate in the product test. Here's a tale of emotional outburst, at once strategic and reflexive in the midst of rational objective.

The *Saipan Tribune* reprinted a St. Louis Post-Dispatch editorial on *Phony research must not deter needed vaccinations* last Thursday, Jan. 20. I am in the fellowship of the Autism Society-CNMI but being in an exit mood and mode, we let the current members exhibit their own "life of passion and purpose." The monthly meeting was held Saturday in NMPASI's autism room.

To cut to the chase, Andrew Wakefield, MD, suggested a link between vaccines and gastro-intestinal disorders (linked to autism). He suggested a relationship to MRR vaccines. Brian Deer, paid by Pharmaceuticals, dogged Dr. Wakefield, and in the wake

of the recent browbeating of Andrew, Brian's latest three-article series in the *British Medical Journal* (dependent on Pharma funding) claim Wakefield "falsified and misrepresented data," and had "conflict of interest" due to possible financial gain that might result in his research.

In Wakefield's wake is a decline in children getting vaccinated and Pharmas (Google BigPharmaDoubter) are threatened by the decline in profits. In the U.S., vaccination is a requirement for children's public school attendance; Pharmas are protected from vaccine-liability in the Homeland Security Act. Courtney Zietzke, who teaches at MHS, wrote *Mercury, The Winged Messenger* on thimerosal, the element used to preserve vaccines with known adverse effects. He swears on his differently-abled son Ian's life and brought the matter to Gov. Babauta's attention for possible legal action.

My two autistic children were born before we heard of Wakefield. Prior to his notoriety, parents in our circle, purely out of intuition enforced by experience, were already talking about the possible connection between vaccines and autism. Our children received the standard vaccination schedule pediatricians prescribed in the Washington DC area mid-1995. Zietzke's impassioned accusation resonates.

Some asides:

■ The *St. Louis Post-Dispatch's* illustrious pedigree with the journalism-award fame Pulitzer family ended in 2005. Lee Enterprises, a Davenport, Iowa publicly traded corporation, purchased it for commercial interest. A critic on the new owner and format claims the ascendancy of advertising over news and editorial content.

■ Advertisers? Pharmas.

■ The Supreme Court issued last year its bizarre *Citizens United* decision, allowing unlimited corporate spending in elections as a form of "free speech" for the corporate "person," lifting the ban on the corporate stranglehold on federal legislation. Check Zietzke's

By **JAIME VERGARA**

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's Opinion Section.

narrative on the Bushes and the Pharmas.

■ Brian Deer. His last known employer? A Pharma.

Connect the dots. Anyone can Google Andrew Wakefield, MD, and Brian Deer, and make their judgment on the integrity of each. I support Wakefield's response to Deer's articles, and the legitimacy of his research.

The issue is not Pharma-profits, nor even the integrity of vaccines. Causality is never absolute nor even certain, and Wakefield never claimed causality. Parents did. The issue is the life of children and their families, and as UK-knighted creative educator Ken Robinson jokes, Pharma-remedies increases as one moves east from the St. Louis to NYC, and so does ADHD.

Autism is an alarming disorder for its pandemic occurrence, the cause of which was first attributed to refrigerator moms! We are in the dark on cause, and we do not have the slightest idea if it can be cured, but it certainly is worth our while to figure out if it can be avoided. Wakefield made a stab at it, and someone's toe\$ got stepped on. Vaccines as preventive measure entail risks. AS-CNMI parents' life of passion and purpose continue to make that call, assert their "conflict of interest" and advocate (including cool Mamas) for the wellbeing of the children.

A search for solutions

By **RICHARD PUHALLA**

SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

I don't write often even though the desire to do so is always there; but my urge to "vent" sometimes might be counterproductive. I am indebted to both newspapers for allowing me the space necessary to share my thoughts and concerns.

So here goes.

What I think the public needs to know most about what has transpired in the last 10 months of this Mandatory Driver Education Law (PL 15-25) controversy is this: We at the Driver Training Academy have not been sitting back on our laurels waiting for the Legislature to do something. I frequent the House and Senate often in an effort to address the lawmakers' concerns and those of the community as well.

The two major issues of contention are tuition and the lack of enforcement on the islands of Tinian and Rota.

Back in March 2010 when S.B. 17-20 was passed in the Senate, a bill requiring PSS to facilitate the program, I met with many of the members of the House and Senate individually and offered the following solution to the tuition issue.

At that time, one of the members of the House indicated to me that he was going to find \$150,000 "seed" money to get the program started on the three islands. Knowing full well that the question of liability was going to hamper PSS from complying with this legislation, I suggested that a rebate fund be established for the students who fronted the tuition and then successfully completed the course.

The rebate would be \$100 given by the Legislature to the student and the source of the funds would be each lawmaker's \$80,000 operating budget. Approximately 200 students finish the program annually and I suggested that each of the 29 lawmakers contribute \$1,000 to this fund. Twenty thousand dollars annually is a drop in the bucket when compared to what it would cost PSS to run this program.

The number of responses that I received from the lawmakers

was zero!

So, let's try again.

It has never been my intention to run this program forever. The 80-hour workweek is sometimes debilitating and it's an evening-weekend gig. We also work holidays because that's when the students are available. Positive feedback from my students, parents, and the community has been my inspiration to continue the fight and I am very appreciative of their support.

Be that as it may, I met with the former speaker and the Education Committee in the House and offered to them what I considered to be a win-win solution.

DTA would transfer its program to NMC's Community Development Institute; I would administrate it as a consultant for two years, and then let them have it. NMC, as an educational institution, has the mindset to facilitate this program because the product that is being delivered is, in fact, education.

Costs can be reduced in the form of full or partial funding from the Legislature or the program can be self-sufficient. Some of my expenses such as rent for classroom and office space and utilities can be allocated from NMC's general fund, thus lowering the tuition. NMC, in compliance with the mandates of PL 15-25, can also service the entire community; something that PSS would not be able to do.

Additionally, I would set up the program on the campuses of Tinian and Rota and, perhaps, federal funds could be sought to purchase simulators for those islands since neither have traffic signals and the number of roads and the amount of traffic is significantly less than on Saipan.

So, what responses did I receive regarding this proposal? The director of NMC's CDI seems interested, and I have received encouraging comments from the general public but, as of yet, there have been no responses from the members of the Legislature.

Then let's move on.

When H.B. 17-95 passed the House unanimously to repeal PL 15-25 and it was reported that an amendment to the House rewrite of S.B. 17-20 would do the same, I was dumbfounded and a little frantic.

No responsible State Legislature would ever foolishly repeal a law that jeopardizes the health, safety, and welfare of its citizenry; not even to appease a special interest group. Thankfully, the amendment to the rewrite of S.B. 17-20 has been withdrawn.

The premise of the S.B. 17-20 rewrite mandates the Bureau of Motor Vehicles to develop a Driver Education Program. This would be a challenge because there is no precedent; i.e., to the best of my knowledge, it has never been done before.

The Department of Motor Vehicles in the U.S. mainland operates at the local level and, similar to the CNMI's BMV, they renew driver licenses, register vehicles, and transfer vehicle ownership documents, etc. In the states that I am familiar with, testing for and the issuing of new permits and licenses is handled by the State Highway Patrol, and these officers are trained to give these exams. State governments are involved because the U.S. Constitution affords the states the responsibility of issuing driver licenses.

The nearest any state comes to providing an educational program is the creation of manuals for the different licenses that they issue. In some states those manuals are free, in others they are purchased, and some states put the manuals on the state's DMV website to be read and/or downloaded. The more progressive states offer manuals in different languages. Classroom and laboratory instruction is not offered and testing is only one component of an educational program.

So where do we go from here?

I sat down with one of the senators last week and suggested a compromise. PL 15-25 can be amended to require the students to take the 30 hours of classroom curriculum and make the laboratory portion of the law optional. If that came to pass, PSS, NMC, and the private schools can facilitate their own programs and not be obligated to assume the risks and expenses associated with teaching the driving. It might not be as effective as what we do now but at the very least, it is better than the alternative, which is to have nothing.

Additionally, the CNMI needs to follow the lead of many of the states and Guam in implementing a Graduated Driver Licensing

See A SEARCH on Page 13

PERSPECTIVES

From Page 10

without the benefit of travel to other tourist destinations. As a result we have nothing to compare with other successful tourist destinations such as: Bermuda, Bahamas, the Greek Island, etc. They simply do not know and have no vision as to what an island tourist destination could be.

T. There's too much legislative meddling, sophomoric back-biting and policy sabotage.

U. The younger generation is beginning to show signs of creating changes to better adapt the CNMI to becoming a more responsible and self-

governing state.

V. There are some in the NMI who believe the association with the U.S. carried with it certain financial entitlements to the islands over and above those normally extended to states and other associated entities that should be "ongoing."

W. The CNMI appears to have a measure of difficulty in its association with the federal government as compared to that of Guam's relationship with the U.S.

Your score is your personal perspective of who we are. Hopefully the above observations will motivate us to think deeper into the complexity of creating a stable and economically viable community. Instability is the bane of investment and economic develop-

ment. It takes a lot of courage to candidly do a self-examination. But once done we can move on with courage and hope for a better future.

The great President Thomas Jefferson observed: "He who knows best knows how little he knows." Too often this basic insight is lost on many of us. Those of us in the greatest need of advice and counseling are the most resistant to accepting and embracing such assistance. We have a tendency to take offense at any attempt to provide constructive criticism. Constant self-evaluation is basic to any successful endeavor. It is a monitoring of progress.

Do you recognize the following words? *"I salute and honor the flag of the Commonwealth of the Northern Islands as a symbol of unity, love,*

and integrity among the cultures and people for which it stands, with equal opportunity for all founded upon divine principles of democracy and the spiritual guidance of Almighty God."

These are the words to our "Salute to the Flag of the CNMI." Are we living the meaning of these words?






The Merriam-Webster dictionary defines "Commonwealth" as "a. a nation, state—one founded on law and united by compact or tacit agreement of the people for the common good; b. one in which supreme authority is vested in the people." Who are we?

When are we going to decide? Once we know this, we can begin to rebuild. Have a great day!

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 77°	▲ 86° ▼ 77°	▲ 85° ▼ 77°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲ 86 ▼ 78
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲ 85 ▼ 78
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲ 86 ▼ 77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲ 86 ▼ 77
Pohnpei	Showers	▲ 85 ▼ 76
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	▲ 88 ▼ 78
Majuro	Showers	▲ 85 ▼ 76

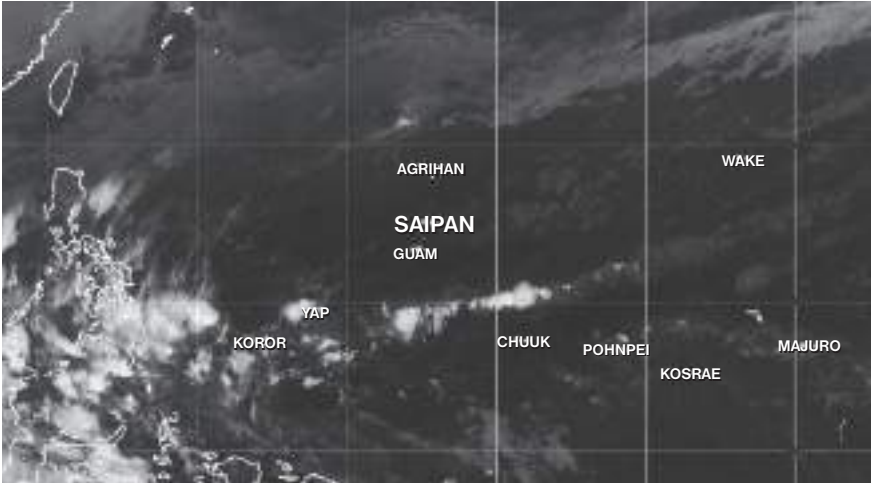
Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲ 75 ▼ 67
Beijing	Sunny	▲ 33 ▼ 13
Hong Kong	Sunny	▲ 64 ▼ 47
Honolulu	Sunny	▲ 77 ▼ 68
London	Cloudy	▲ 44 ▼ 37
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲ 74 ▼ 49
Manila	Thundershowers	▲ 82 ▼ 73
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲ 74 ▼ 57
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲ 77 ▼ 65
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲ 21 ▼ 19
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲ 44 ▼ 35
Paris	Cloudy	▲ 43 ▼ 38
Pusan	Sunny	▲ 37 ▼ 22
Rome	Sunny	▲ 49 ▼ 32
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲ 57 ▼ 39
San Francisco	Sunny	▲ 63 ▼ 48
Seoul	Sunny	▲ 25 ▼ 12
Tokyo	Sunny	▲ 47 ▼ 33
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲ 29 ▼ 29

Tides

Saipan Harbor				
4:41 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.0 Feet	
11:06 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet	
5:37 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.5 Feet	
11:07 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.7 Feet	

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, JANUARY 23, 2011
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front reaches southwestward from a low pressure system centered near Iwo To island at 25N143E to 19N137E then continues as a shear line to beyond 130E at 16N. Cloudiness and wide-spread rain associated with the cold front and low pressure system are found north of the Marianas or north of a line from 18N137E to 23N152E. Patchy clouds and light rain are seen along and up to 280 miles northwest of the shear line. Another shear line stretches southwestward from 19N180 to west of Chuuk at 8N150E then continues westward to end near Yap at 9N140E. Clouds and patchy rain are present along and up to 240 miles northwest of the shear line between the date line and 150E. Scattered light showers are evident along and up 160 miles north of the rest of the shear line. Converging surface winds are coupling with divergent upper-level winds to produce scattered showers and a few thunderstorms west of Koror between 6N and 9N from 130E to 133E. Widely scattered showers are occurring over Koror between 5N and 8N from 133E to 136E. A trade-wind disturbance is causing scattered showers between Pohnpei and Kosrae within 55 miles of a line from 7N161E to 2N163E. Trade-wind convergence is triggering widely scattered showers south of Chuuk and Pohnpei or south of a line from 4N161E to 2N149E. Similar conditions are also happening over Majuro and eastward to the date line within 70 miles of a line from 4N166E to 6N172E to 6N180.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:47 AM	6:11 PM
Tuesday	6:47 AM	6:11 PM
Wednesday	6:47 AM	6:12 PM
Thursday	6:47 AM	6:12 PM
Friday	6:47 AM	6:13 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	10:32 PM	9:51 AM
Tuesday	11:30 PM	10:35 AM
Wednesday		11:22 AM
Thursday	12:29 AM	12:10 PM
Friday	1:28 AM	1:02 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI
Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

- CAMPUS BULLETIN
Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- For pictures:**
- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
 - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
 - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
 - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
- For announcements:**
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 16, 2010

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM				GUAM-SAIPAN			
C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily	C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6	C09596	6:35am	7:25am	3, 6
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C09596	7:00am	7:50am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7	C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily	C09604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily	C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:10am	8:45am	Daily	DL298	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily
DL285	6:40am	9:15am	1, 3, 4, 5, 6	DL286	7:45pm	12:20am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 7
DL297	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily	DL288	8:00pm	12:30am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)				OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN			
OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily	OZ120	9:50am	2:20am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 4, 5, 7	OZ607	9:10pm	2:20am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1	OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
OZ604	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7	OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ119	4:00am	11:25am	Daily via KIX	OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6	FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
CA988	3:15am	6:55am	1, 5 Dec 13, 17, 20, 24 & 27 only	CA987	6:40pm	1:55am+1	4, 7 Dec 12, 16, 19, 23 & 26 only
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ606/701	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ716/603	12:30am	2:20pm	4, 6 via ICN
C09317/891	4:25am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM	DL172/286	8:05am	12:20am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 7
DL285/173	6:40am	10:15pm	1, 3, 4, 5, 6 via NRT	C0890/9606	10:55am	8:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
C09313/933	7:55am	9:25pm	3 via GUM	OZ702/605	1:10pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
C09313/893	7:55am	11:00pm	3 via GUM-Palau	OZ702/605	1:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C09603/933	3:05pm	9:25pm	5 via GUM	PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:25am+1	6 via GUM
C09603/893	3:05pm	11:00pm	5 via GUM-Palau	PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 4, 7 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 ICN	C0892/9596	10:25pm	7:25am+1	3 via GUM-Palau
OZ604/715	3:20pm	11:30pm	7	C0892/9596	10:25pm	7:50am+1	5 via GUM-Palau
C09605/933	6:20pm	9:40pm	1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	C0934/9596	11:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 7 via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	C0934/9596	11:25pm	7:50am+1	4 via GUM
				C0934/9596	11:59pm	7:25am+1	3 via GUM
				C0934/9596	11:59pm	7:50am+1	5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG				HONG KONG-SAIPAN			
OZ606/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN	OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/909	3:05pm	10:25pm	1, 5 via GUM	OZ722/605	1:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ604/723	3:20pm	10:35pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/605	1:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ604/749	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN	C0910/9596	11:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; CA: Air China
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
FRE 300	17:50	18:20	Daily				
Saipan-Rota				Tinian-Saipan			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
				FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

O P I N I O N

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Not the answer

Perhaps it's so obvious that it doesn't really need to be pointed out, but then again, maybe it should be pointed out just so it stops being mentioned: former speaker Froilan Tenorio's creed that "the only option for the administration is to start laying off employees. Either that or we allow a casino on Saipan." (*Marianas Variety*, Jan. 21, p.2)

Allowing a casino on Saipan—even if agreed to this

week—would not increase the CNMI's revenue in 2011, nor would it increase the CNMI's revenue in 2012, and probably not even in 2013.

Why? Because it takes time to find an investor (though one suspects Tenorio has one at hand), to find land on which to put the casino, to negotiate a lease, to design and build the casino itself—or redesign and remodel an existing building—to apply for and obtain all the required permits, to win

approval of the qualifying tax certificate, etc. Given the way the CNMI government works, it would take a couple of years, at the very least, for all of that to happen.

In short, a casino on Saipan is *not* the answer, it is *not* going to help the administration with its present cash flow problems, and Tenorio should stop blathering that it will.

Ruth Tighe
Tanapag, Saipan

An opportunity for Saipan

A large motion picture company in Japan is producing a feature film about the legendary Japanese soldier named Capitan Oba, or as the Americans called him, the "Fox." The background for the movie comes from a book written by Don Jones, *Oba, The Last Samurai*. The film is high budget and features two top Japanese male movie stars and also several Americans. The story is about how Capitan Oba became the last of the Japanese forces to surrender on Saipan. It is an exciting story and it is getting top press in Tokyo.

The film will be released in Japan on Feb. 11, 2011, and the premiere will open to a special audience here on Saipan on Jan. 31. I believe that this film could be an opportunity for Saipan. The story happens here, it is based on a topic of interest to Japanese. There should be many tourists who would like to visit Saipan to see where Capitan Oba fought his battles with the Americans.

Japan tour groups are doing limited promotion tours to Saipan to see where this drama took place. This movie could bring many additional tourists to Saipan if properly promoted as a Saipan destination! The concern and questions that I have: Are we ready to take advantage of this opportunity? Are tour guides trained, indeed have they read the Jones' book? Are the trails marked and the Oba Command Posts been identified? Do we have Oba merchandise available? Have we promoted Saipan in the Japanese press outlets? I ask these questions because I have not seen any promotions of this film on Saipan. The motion picture company, of course, is focused on the Japanese market and, the advertisements in Tokyo are large and colorful. But they only mention Saipan in passing and several of my friends in Tokyo who have seen the ads completely missed the fact that the movie takes place on Saipan.

Opportunities only come to those that go after them. Have we promoted this movie in Japan as a Saipan location where you can see where the events in the movie took place? It is not the responsibility of the film company to promote Saipan; it is ours. Of course Capitan Oba is now history, but things could be done to enhance the tourist experience by promoting locations, creating educational materials, making a visit exciting by our tour guides adding value by knowing that history. Perhaps all of these things that could have been done have been done. But I am concerned that we may miss yet another opportunity to enhance our tourist industry.

I learned about this film by accident. Perhaps those on the island who have the responsibility to promote Saipan will have done their job and a new opportunity will be realized.

Frank Stewart
Capital Hill, Saipan

A SEARCH

From Page 11

Program.

Graduated Drivers Licensing, or GDL, is a three-stage approach to granting new drivers full license privileges. Generally, the three stages of GDL are:

a. **Supervised learning period.** After passing a qualifying test and, perhaps, the classroom curriculum of a Driver Education program, a new driver is granted a learner's permit. The new driver is allowed to drive only with a supervising adult in the car for a given period of time or minimum number of hours before earning an intermediate license.

b. **Intermediate license.** At this stage, after having passed the driving exam, the driver has earned a license and no longer needs supervision to drive, but is subject to restrictions, such as a curfew, no cell phone usage, plus limita-

tions placed on the number of passengers allowed in the car (one), as well as nighttime driving restrictions.

c. **Full-Privilege license.** The driver meets the age and any other requirements to earn an unrestricted drivers license. Requirements vary from state to state.

The first step in this process for the CNMI would be to change the "holding period" for a learner's permit from "60 days or less" to a mandatory six-month time frame.

I have one final comment about the situation on Tinian and Rota: The Mandatory Driver Education Law has not been enforced on these two islands simply because no one has been willing to provide the service.

I was baffled in the beginning. It seemed to me that there had to be at least one person willing to take on this project. The law provides for a guaranteed market and with a smaller number of applicants, the busi-

ness might be a part-time venture. If I could clone myself, I would do it.

So I discussed my bewilderment with a prominent local politician and to my amazement, was told that it was not a lack of initiative by any one person on those two islands but the fact it is not going happen until the implementation of the law is forced upon them.

Well, if that's the case, then maybe it's time to hold those new licenses "hostage" and hold the lawmakers, elected officials, community leaders, DPS, and BMV on those two islands accountable for not getting the job done. They have had nearly three years to work on it.

So there you go. I have said my piece for now. Is anyone listening?

Richard Puhalla is the owner and operator of the Instructional Support Training Services Driving Training Academy.

Business

OBAMA'S ECONOMIC AGENDA:

Boost US competitiveness

By JULIE PACE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP)—Under pressure to energize the economy, President Barack Obama said Saturday he will use his State of the Union address to outline an agenda to create jobs now and boost American competitiveness over the long term.

Heading quickly into re-election mode, Obama is expected to use Tuesday's prime-time speech to promote spending on innovation while also promising to reduce the national debt

and cooperate with emboldened Republicans.

"I'm focused on making sure the economy is working for everybody, for the entire American family," Obama said Saturday in an uncommon preview of his speech, offered up in an online video to his supporters late Saturday afternoon. The president announced that the economy would be the main topic of his speech, a nod to how important that issue is to the country's standing and his own as well.

At the halfway point of his

term, Obama said the economy is on firmer footing than it was two years ago: it is growing again, albeit slowly, while the stock market is rising, and corporate profits are climbing. But with the unemployment rate stubbornly stuck above 9 percent, Obama will signal a shift Tuesday from short-term stabilization policies toward ones focused on job creation and longer-term growth.

Obama offered no details on specific proposals he will call for in his address, though he has offered hints in recent weeks.

Perhaps the clearest came in an overlooked speech in North Carolina last month, one that will likely serve as a template of what the nation is about to hear. Obama said then that making the U.S. more competitive means investing in a more educated work force, committing more to research and technology, and improving everything from highways and airports to high-speed Internet.

In his weekly radio and Internet address Saturday, Obama also highlighted free trade as a way to increase U.S. exports and put Americans to work.

"That's how we'll create jobs today," Obama said. "That's how we'll make America more competitive tomorrow. And that's how we'll win the future."

Obama's challenge will be to find the money and political will to spend it, at a time when he's pledged to reduce spending and tackle the mountainous debt.



AP

President Barack Obama stands in front of a high tech turbine as he visits the birthplace of the General Electric Co., to showcase a new GE deal with India and to announce a restructured presidential advisory board to be led by GE CEO Jeffrey Immelt, Friday, Jan. 21, 2011, in Schenectady, N.Y.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Apple app store hits 10 billion downloads

NEW YORK (AP)—Apple says that its app store has hit the 10 billion downloads mark. The milestone, announced on Apple Inc.'s website Saturday, arrives as the company's hugely popular smart phone is likely to become even more popular with the addition next month of Verizon Wireless as a carrier. The company has sold tens of millions of iPhones since the device launched in 2007 and continues to expand the use of apps with its iPad tablet computer. Its app store has drawn an army of software developers hoping to piggyback on the company's success. The store now boasts more than 350,000 different programs for the iPhone, iPod Touch or iPad. Apple said it would give the 10 billionth person to download an app a \$10,000 gift card to its iTunes store, which now offers movies and TV shows along with digital music files. And the winner is Gail Davis of Orpington, Kent, in the U.K. She downloaded a free game app called Paper Glider.

Federal center hopes to spur drug research

WASHINGTON (AP)—Federal officials concerned about the slowing pace of new drugs coming out of the pharmaceutical industry have decided to start a billion-dollar government drug development center to help create medicines. The New York Times reported on its website Saturday about the new effort that comes as many large

drug makers, unable to find enough new drugs, are trimming back research. Promising discoveries in illnesses like depression and Parkinson's that once would have led to clinical trials are instead going unexplored because companies are not inclined and do not have the money to undertake the effort. The paper reports that initial financing of the government's new drug center is relatively small compared with the \$45.8 billion that the industry estimates it invested in research in 2009. The cost of bringing a single drug to market can exceed \$1 billion, according to some estimates.

Viacom CEO 2010 compensation jumps to \$84.5M

NEW YORK (AP)—Viacom Inc. CEO Philippe Dauman's compensation more than doubled in 2010 from the year before, according to an Associated Press analysis, mainly because of stock options and awards. Dauman's overall pay package climbed to \$84.5 million from \$34 million, according to a review of securities filings made on Friday. His base salary rose 5 percent to about \$2.6 million from \$2.5 million. He received a performance-based bonus of \$11.3 million, down 10 percent from \$12.5 million the year before. The value of perks such as jet travel and 401(k) contributions fell 42 percent to \$141,000 from \$243,000. The biggest part of Dauman's compensation came in the form of stock options and awards. In fiscal 2010, they totaled \$70.5 million, up from \$18.7 million.

Nation

Updated rehab aims to give Giffords her life back

By MARILYNN MARCHIONE
AP MEDICAL WRITER

HOUSTON (AP)—She inspired the nation with her fairy-tale recovery. Now Rep. Gabrielle Giffords must inspire herself through the ordeal of rehabilitation, and doctors say it's likely to be the hardest work she'll ever do.

Just a couple of decades ago, rehab was little more than physical therapy for shuffling stroke victims and wheelchair-bound quadriplegics, a last resort after doctors had done all they could.

Now it's a sophisticated science at the forefront of treating people like Giffords, who was shot in the forehead two weeks ago while meeting constituents in Tucson. An early start on rehab is key to limiting permanent damage, and the Houston hospital where she will be treated uses high-tech tools to push the brain to rewire itself.

The Arizona congresswoman arrived Friday at the Texas Medical Center, where she is expected to spend a few days in intensive care before moving to TIRR Memorial Hermann rehab hospital. Dr. Gerard Francisco, the hospital's chief medical officer, said Saturday that she was "even more alert

today" and progressing nicely with therapy.

Instead of doctors making you well, rehab means "teaching you how to help yourself" to get your life back, said Dr. William Donovan, a former medical director of the rehab hospital who still works there part-time.

It's frustrating when your muscles and mind won't work the way you want them to. Emotional challenges, post-traumatic stress and physical problems like seizures, headaches and infections loom as risks that could complicate her recovery.

No one can predict how she will do, or what her "new normal" will be, as the hospital's CEO, Carl Josehart puts it. A CT scan on arrival showed "really minimal" injury for the mortal wound she had, said Dr. Dong Kim, neurosurgery chief for University of Texas Health Science Center.

The type of bullet, its path, good trauma care and her general health before the injury bode well for her, but "a bigger impact on recovery is the amount of family and social support after the injury," said Mark Sherer, a neuropsychologist at the rehab hospital.

After doing a head-to-toe mapping of her injuries and abilities, "we'll have to figure



In this Jan. 21, 2011 photo released by the office of Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, D-Ariz., Rep. Giffords is carried from a plane after arriving in Houston.

out how to meet each and every deficit," Francisco said.

The first step: setting a goal, such as being able to live independently or to return to work or school.

"We try to tailor that to what's realistic," Josehart said.

His hospital is a modern, six-story, red-brick building with hacienda-style arches and signs with the "O" in Memorial Her-

mann made into a hopeful yellow sunburst. The rooms are standard hospital ones - no VIP suites, the doctors quip.

A large gym can treat 30 to 40 patients at a time with state-of-the-art equipment. There are therapy pools, treadmills with harnesses to help support weight and sophisticated recumbent

bikes that send electrical signals to help muscles move.

A day's stay costs several thousand dollars, and the hospital treats a mix of public insurance, private pay and uninsured patients. About two-thirds have brain injuries - everything from gunshot wounds to strokes - and most of the rest are spinal

cord injuries.

"In the early days of rehabilitation - 20, 30 years ago - it was not uncommon for patients to be in a rehab hospital for a year," Josehart said.

Now, three to six months is a very long stay, partly due to better treatments and new technology that allow more care to be given at home - portable lifts to help people out of wheelchairs, for example.

How does someone get better in rehab?

"Practice, practice, practice, and I'm not being facetious," said Dr. Paul Schulz, a UTHealth neurologist who works at the hospital.

A patient having trouble speaking - as doctors suspect Giffords might - could be given a Ouija board and asked to form words on it. Or encouraged to sing what they are trying to say to a familiar tune like the ABC's or Happy Birthday while tapping their fingers, said Dr. David Lacey, medical director of rehab services at Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center.

That engages more body systems and encourages new connections and nerve growth, he explained.

Mystery surrounds Idaho winner of \$190 million

By NICHOLAS K. GERANIOS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

RATHDRUM, Idaho (AP)—Holly Lahti burst into the spotlight a week ago in a feel-good story about a single mother who won a \$190 million Mega Millions jackpot.

Then came the mugshot: a thin young woman with disheveled brown hair, sporting a black eye and cuts and bruises on her face and neck. It turned out she was separated from a man who court records indicated had abused her, and now has a possible claim to some of the money through a quirk in Idaho law.

Lahti, 29, went underground with her two daughters immediately after learning she had won half of a \$380 million jackpot in the Jan. 4 drawing. She has not been seen or heard in public since.

The mugshot was taken after Lahti and her husband, Josh Lahti, both were arrested during a domestic dispute in 2003. The charges were later dropped, and the couple has long been separated.

Josh Lahti said he did not know Holly had won the lottery until told by a reporter from The Associated Press last week.

"That's awesome! I won't have to pay child support!" he said upon learning his wife was rich.



In this undated photo provided by the Idaho Sheriff's Office, Holly Lahti is shown.

As it turns out, the husband could be entitled to a chunk of the winnings because he and Lahti never divorced and were never legally separated for that matter. Idaho's murky law on the issue requires a divorce filing to grant separation, which is a key factor in splitting up assets between spouses.

While the lawyers sort out the issue in the months ahead, Holly Lahti can rejoice in the fact that her troubled past has given way to riches beyond her wildest dreams.

She quit her job as a customer service representative for a bank after winning the jackpot, then she asked family and friends not to talk with reporters. She did not appear at the Jan. 12 press conference in Boise in which

her good fortune was revealed.

In a brief telephone interview, Josh Lahti said the two started dating in high school and got married in 2001.

Holly Lahti still lives in the couple's home in Rathdrum, a town in the Idaho Panhandle. Josh Lahti said he sees his daughters, age 12 and 10, most days.

Her friends are upset at all the attention paid to the decade-old mugshot, and say it does not reflect the devoted and hardworking young mother who has moved on from a troubled marriage.

"She is kind. She is friendly. She is shy," said Jennifer Mayberry, who has lived in the same neighborhood for a decade. "My children play with her children."

Lahti opted Friday to collect her jackpot in a lump-sum payment, instead of annual payments over 25 years. She will get \$120 million, which will be reduced to \$80.6 million by federal and state taxes.

It will be a dramatic change for a woman who by all indications appeared to be of limited means.

A search of public records revealed that she grew up in California and moved with her parents to Rathdrum, where she graduated from high school. Her marriage appears to have included some violence.

Health care overhaul debate now shifts to states

WASHINGTON (AP)—True or false: States suing to overturn core requirements of President Barack Obama's health care overhaul are refusing to carry out the law. If you said "true," you'd be wrong.

Republican state legislators and governors are working on how to deliver coverage to more than 30 million people now uninsured, as the law calls for, even as GOP attorneys general lead the legal battle to overturn the law's mandate that most Americans have health insurance.

The result? Perhaps the first practical opportunity for the two political parties to work together on an issue that divide them in Washington.

"I can be philosophically opposed and recognize that we can't be asleep at the switch," said Alabama state Rep. Greg Wren, a Republican playing a national role.

"I for one have no interest in ceding any regulatory or statutory authority to the federal government in this area and allowing our state to default while we pursue the litigation side," said Wren, co-chairman of a National Conference of State Legislatures task force on the health care remake.

The debate in the nation's capital seems headed for a stalemate this year because Senate Democrats have the

votes to thwart House Republicans' efforts to repeal the law. Denying the Obama administration money to carry out the law isn't a sure strategy either; most of the money was woven tightly into the legislation Congress passed last year.

"We will see a lot of small battles in Congress, but the real center of gravity will shift to the states," said Mike Leavitt, former Republican governor of Utah and health secretary under President George W. Bush. "Bipartisanship is more vibrant in the states than it is in Washington. That doesn't mean it's plentiful, but at least it's alive."

States have to be ready to take on major responsibilities when the coverage expansion gets going in 2014. If not, the federal government will come in and run things.

States must set up and operate health insurance markets where an estimated 24 million people eventually will buy private coverage, most with the aid of federal subsidies. Also, states must open their Medicaid programs to a broader segment of low-income people.

The Medicaid expansion worries state officials. They're already struggling with the costs of the program, draining money from other services from education to law enforcement. Special added Medic-

aid payments that Washington funneled to the states in the economic downturn will end this year, worsening the crunch.

About 16 million newly eligible people eventually would get Medicaid under the law, and potentially several million more who are eligible today but not signed up could enroll as well. The law says the federal government will pick up the full cost of those newly eligible for the first few years, but doesn't deal directly with covering the other group.

If state officials are unsure about the Medicaid expansion, they're intrigued about what they might be able to do with the new insurance markets, known as exchanges.

Consumers will be able to go online and pick a private plan from a range of coverage levels and options. Comparison shopping will be easier because benefits will be standardized.

Nearly every state has applied for an initial round of federal planning grants to explore how to design the markets.

"State exchanges are good from a conservative standpoint because they involve consumer choice and markets," said former Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, a Tennessee Republican.

Asia

South Korean raid frees hostage crew from pirates



In this photo released by the Arabian Navy via Yonhap, members of South Korean naval special forces rescue crew members from Somali pirates aboard the South Korean cargo ship Samho Jewelry in the Arabian Sea, Friday, Jan. 21, 2011.

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—As dawn broke, South Korean commandos steered their boats to a hijacked freighter in the Arabian Sea. Under covering fire from a destroyer and a Lynx helicopter, they scrambled up ladders onto the ship, where Somali pirates were armed with assault rifles and anti-tank missiles.

The helicopter broadcast warnings in Korean that a rescue operation had begun and told the crew members to lay down on the floor.

Then the commandos started shooting as the pirates fired at them.

Five hours after Friday's risky rescue began, it was over.

All 21 hostages were freed from the gunfire-scarred freighter. Eight pirates were killed and five were captured in what President Lee Myung-bak called a "perfect operation."

It was a remarkable ending to the daring and rare raid, handing South Korea a

stunning success in the battle against pirates who have long tormented shipping in the waters off the Horn of Africa.

The lone casualty among the crew was the captain, identified as Seok Hae-gyun, 58, who was shot in the stomach by a pirate, South Korea's JoongAng Ilbo newspaper reported. He was taken by a U.S. helicopter to a nearby country for treatment, but the wound was not life-threatening, Lt. Gen. Lee Sung-ho of the South Korean Joint Chiefs of Staff told reporters in Seoul.

"My heart stopped when the news of all the members being rescued was broadcast," the captain's son, Seok Hyun-wook, told the newspaper. "If I knew that they were planning a rescue, I would have been nervous all along."

The successful raid also was a triumph for South Korea's president and military. Both came under harsh criticism at home

for being too slow and weak in the response to a North Korean attack in November on a South Korean island near disputed waters that killed two marines and two civilians.

Friday's operation came a week after the Somali attackers seized the Samho Jewelry, a 11,500-ton chemical carrier sailing from the United Arab Emirates to Sri Lanka.

"We will not tolerate any behavior that threatens the lives and safety of our people in the future," President Lee said in a brief televised statement.

The wife of one of the South Korean crew wept in gratitude as the hijacking ended. The unidentified woman told the Yonhap news agency that "family members couldn't sleep or eat well and prayed for a safe return. I am very relieved."

Choi Young-soo, the father of 25-year-old crewman Choi Jinkyung, told the JoongAng Ilbo that his relatives "were in tears

when we saw the news."

"When I heard the news of the hijack, I thought the sky was falling," the elder Choi was quoted as saying.

Of the 21 crew members, eight were from South Korea, two were from Indonesia and 11 were from Myanmar. South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said the Samho Jewelry was being accompanied by the destroyer to a safe area; it did not elaborate.

The South Korean crew members are expected to return home around next Saturday, said Samho Shipping, which runs the Samho Jewelry, according to Yonhap news agency.

Other countries' special forces have launched several raids to rescue hijacked ships in recent months, but hours, not days, after capture, and then only after they were assured the crew was locked in a safe room, commonly referred to as a "citadel."

The raid on the Samho Jewelry was rare because it came a week after the ship was seized. It was not clear if the crew was in a citadel during the rescue, but the wounded captain clearly was not.

Security forces are usually reluctant to launch such raids because of the risk to the hostages.

A French rescue operation in April 2009 that came two days after a sailboat was seized left one hostage dead, along with two of the pirates. Four French citizens were freed in the effort,

which came after the pirates threatened to kill their captives.

Friday's raid marked the first rescue operation since 2009 by a South Korean navy vessel deployed in the Gulf of Aden to help fight piracy.

"This operation demonstrated our government's strong will to never negotiate with pirates," Gen. Lee said.

The Bahrain-based U.S. 5th Fleet said the U.S. Navy was aware of the rescue, but referred all other questions to South Korea.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Malaysia lawmakers face mandatory health checks

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Lawmakers in Malaysia may soon be required to undergo annual health checks after 11 elected politicians died of wide-ranging illnesses in less than three years. The deaths have triggered a string of special elections to fill the vacancies and prompted Malaysians to accuse politicians of neglecting their health. The Star newspaper quoted Health Minister Liow Tiong Lai as saying he will soon make a recommendation to the Cabinet for mandatory health examinations involving members of Parliament and state legislatures. Ministry officials familiar with the plan could not immediately be reached Sunday. Two state lawmakers have died in the past month alone, one from diabetes complications and another from a heart attack.

Karzai backs down in dispute with Afghan lawmakers

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Under heavy pressure from Afghan lawmakers and Western diplomats, President Hamid Karzai agreed on Saturday to convene the newly elected parliament, ending a political standoff that threatened to spark a constitutional crisis. After hours of tense discussions at the presidential palace, Karzai backed off his earlier order to delay the session for a month to allow more time for a special tribunal to investigate allegations of fraud in September's parliamentary election, according to two of the lawmakers involved in the talks, Shukria Barakzai of Kabul and Gul Pacha Majidi of Ghazni province. In return, Karzai asked the parliamentarians to agree that any criminal case against a lawmaker could go forward, said Mirwais Yasini, a representative from Nangarhar province who was deputy speaker of the lower house of parliament in the last session.

The legislators agreed to this Saturday evening and drafted a letter to send to the president on Sunday, Yasini said.

China praises Hu's trip to US as 'fruitful'

BEIJING (AP)—China says its president's recently concluded state visit to the United States was "fruitful" but the two countries need to work on trust so that sensitive issues do not create misgivings. Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi said in comments published in Sunday's People's Daily newspaper that the visit by President Hu Jintao came at a time when the world is undergoing "profound and complicated changes." Yang said that despite their social, cultural and historical differences, China and the U.S. have a common responsibility in promoting growth and development in the world. He said economic cooperation between the two countries would send "a powerful and positive signal to the global market."

Southeast Australia set for another week of floods

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—Rural Australian towns braced for another week of flooding Sunday as a vast lake continued to spread across the country's southeast and a potential tropical storm threatened the northeast. The flooding began more than a month ago in Australia's northeast Queensland state, where 30 people have died, more than 30,000 homes have been damaged or destroyed and at least 3 billion Australian dollars (\$3 billion) in crops and coal exports have been lost. Record rains have shifted the flood emergency focus to southeast Victoria state, which is usually parched during the southern summer. Deputy Prime Minister Wayne Swan said in a statement Sunday that the floods will rank as one of the most costly natural disasters in Australian history and its impact on the economy will be felt for years.

Pakistan officials: US drone strike kills 4 in NW

MIR ALI, Pakistan (AP)—A suspected U.S. drone fired two missiles at a vehicle and a house in a militant stronghold in northwestern Pakistan on Sunday, killing four alleged militants, Pakistani intelligence officials said.

The attack took place in Doga Mada Khel village in North Waziristan, part of Pakistan's tribal area that is dominated by militants who regularly launch attacks against U.S. troops in Afghanistan, said the officials, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to the media.

The identities of the suspected militants killed in the strike were unknown, but the village is controlled by fighters loyal

to the powerful militant commander Hafiz Gul Bahadur.

The U.S. has stepped up its use of drone strikes to target militants in North Waziristan given the reluctance of the Pakistani army to launch an offensive in the area.

The army says its troops are stretched too thin carrying out operations in other parts of the tribal region. Many analysts believe Pakistan is reluctant to target militants in the area with whom it has historical ties and could be useful allies in Afghanistan after foreign troops

withdraw.

The U.S. refuses to acknowledge the covert CIA drone strikes in Pakistan publicly, but officials have said privately that they have killed senior Taliban and al-Qaida commanders.

Philippine troops find explosives in militant camp

ZAMBOANGA, Philippines (AP)—The military says troops have found bomb-making materials in a camp abandoned by al-Qaida-linked militants in the southern Philippines.

Brig. Gen. Nicanor Dolojan says soldiers discovered the

Abu Sayyaf camp on Friday outside Al-Barka township on Basilan island. He says they found two homemade bombs, 14 mortar rounds and other bomb-making materials.

He says the soldiers stumbled upon the camp while hunting for a wounded Abu

Sayyaf commander, Nurhassan Jamiri, who has been blamed for beheadings, kidnappings and bombings on Basilan.

The Abu Sayyaf is on the U.S. list of terrorist organizations. One of its bombs killed two U.S. soldiers on southern Jolo island in September 2009.

World

Thousands demand ouster of Yemen's president

By AHMED AL-HAJ
ASSOCIATED PRESS

ADEN, Yemen (AP)—Drawing inspiration from the revolt in Tunisia, thousands of Yemenis fed up with their president's 32-year rule demanded his ouster Saturday in a noisy demonstration that appeared to be the first large-scale public challenge to the strongman.

Clashes also broke out Saturday in Algeria, as opposition activists there tried to copy the tactics of their Tunisian neighbors, who forced their long-time leader to flee the country more than a week ago.

The protests in Yemen appeared to be the first of their kind. The nation's 23 million citizens have many grievances: they are the poorest people in the Arab world, the government is widely seen as corrupt and is reviled for its alliance with the United States in fighting al-Qaida, there are few political freedoms and the country is rapidly running out of water.

Still, calling for President Ali Abdullah Saleh to step down had been a red line that few dissenters dared to test.

In a reflection of the tight grip Saleh's government and its forces have in the capital—outside the city, that control thins dramatically—Saturday's demonstration did not take place in the



Yemeni students chant slogans calling on their president Ali Abdullah Saleh to leave the government and follow Tunisian ousted President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali into exile during a protest in Sanaa, Yemen, Saturday, Jan. 22, 2011.

streets, but was confined to the grounds of the University of Sanaa.

Around 2,500 students, activists and opposition groups gathered there

and chanted slogans against the president, comparing him to Tunisia's ousted President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, whose people were similarly en-

After failed Iran nuclear talks: What now?

By GEORGE JAHN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

ISTANBUL (AP)—The collapse of another attempt at international outreach to Iran on Saturday has left world powers with few options except to wait—and hope that the bite of sanctions will persuade Tehran to reconsider its refusal to stop activities that could be harnessed to make nuclear weapons.

But their patience could be tested. While the U.S. and others say that Iran already is suffering from the wide range of financial and trade sanctions, travel bans and other penalties imposed by the U.N., the U.S., the EU and others, the Islamic Republic shows no sign of bending.

Uranium enrichment lies at the heart

of the dispute.

Low-enriched uranium—at around 3.5 percent—can be used to fuel a reactor to generate electricity, which Iran says is the intention of its program. But if uranium is further enriched to around 90 percent purity, it can be used to develop a nuclear warhead.

Iran came to the Istanbul talks with six world powers Friday declaring it would not even consider freezing uranium enrichment—and left the negotiations Saturday repeating the same mantra. Throughout two days of hectic meetings, it stubbornly pushed demands it must have known were unacceptable to the six—a lifting of sanctions and acceptance of its enrichment program before any further discussion of its nuclear activities.

“Both these preconditions are not the

way to proceed,” EU foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton declared—and added no new talks were planned.

Publicly, the U.S. and others nations concerned that Iran could turn its enrichment program toward making fissile warhead material say that troubles with enrichment have slowed that activity and left more time to persuade Iran to heed international concerns than thought just a year ago.

Israeli officials now talk of a three-year window—until 2014—before Iran can make a bomb. That compares with projections of 2011 just three years ago.

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton told NBC's “Today” show earlier this week that the new Israeli estimates are “very significant.” The delay, she said, “gives us more of a breathing space to try to work to prevent them from obtaining a nuclear weapon.”

Pope: Marriage is not an absolute right

VATICAN CITY (AP)—Pope Benedict XVI told priests Saturday to do a better job counseling would-be spouses to ensure their marriages last and said no one has an absolute right to a wedding.

Benedict made the comments in his annual speech to the Roman Rota, the Vatican tribunal that decides marriage annulments. An annulment is the process by which the church effectively declares that a marriage never took place.

Benedict acknowledged that the problems that would allow for a marriage to be annulled cannot always be identified beforehand. But he said better pre-marriage counseling, which the Catholic Church requires of the faithful, could help avoid a “vicious circle” of invalid marriages.

He said the right to a church wedding requires that the bride and groom intend to celebrate and live the marriage truthfully and authentically.

“No one can make a claim to the right to a nuptial ceremony,” he said.

raged by economic woes and government corruption.

“Get out get out, Ali. Join your friend Ben Ali,” the crowds chanted.

One of the organizers, Fouad Dahaba, said the demonstration was only a beginning and they will not stop until their demands are met.

“We will march the streets of Sanaa, to the heart of Sanaa and to the presidential palace. The coming days will witness an escalation,” said Dahaba, an Islamist lawmaker and head of the teachers' union.

Making good on that pledge will be difficult. Like other entrenched regimes in the Arab world, Yemen's government shows little tolerance for dissent and the security forces—bolstered by U.S. military aid intended for fighting the country's virulent al-Qaida offshoot—are quick to crack down.

Police fired tear gas at the demonstrators, whose grievances include proposed constitutional changes that would allow the president to rule for a lifetime. Around 30 protesters were detained, a security official said. He spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the press.

Benedict has used his annual speech to the Rota to impress on its members the indissolubility of marriage and that they should avoid the temptation of granting annulments on a whim. Last year, he urged the tribunal to work harder to encourage couples to stay together and not confuse “pastoral charity” with the need to uphold church law.

On Saturday, Benedict said priests had an important pastoral job to discern whether would-be spouses are prepared and able to enter into a valid marriage.

“The church and society at large place too much importance on the good of marriage and the family founded on it to not make a profound commitment to it pastorally,” Benedict said.

The Vatican's concern about marriage annulments is largely directed at the United States, which in 2006 had more annulment cases launched than the rest of the world combined.

WORLD BRIEFS

Once-feared Tunisian police join protesters

TUNIS, Tunisia (AP)—Tunisia's once-feared police staged a rally of their own Saturday, demanding better salaries and insisting they're not to blame for shooting deaths among protesters who forced the North African country's longtime autocrat to flee. At least 2,000 police rallied in downtown Tunis, an epicenter of protest and clashes between youths and police that forced President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali to quit the country he ruled with an iron fist for 23 years. The rally took place near the hulking Interior Ministry, a symbol of the dread that his regime inspired for many Tunisians. Saturday's crowd on Avenue Bourguiba, where daily protests have been held,

drew many plainclothes and uniformed police with red armbands. They sought to press demands like the creation of a labor union, better pay and—like other protests in recent days—the ousting of any members from Ben Ali's party from the government.

Crisis escalates in Albania after protest deaths

TIRANA, Albania (AP)—A political crisis escalated in Albania on Saturday as the government and the opposition traded blame for the deaths of three protesters during a violent demonstration against an administration accused of deeply rooted corruption. The Prosecutor General's office said arrest warrants had been issued for six officers of the

National Guard, army troops under Interior Ministry command who guard government institutions and senior officials. Tensions have been mounting for months between Albania's conservative government and the main opposition Socialist Party. They rose sharply last week when Deputy Prime Minister Ilir Meta resigned after a private TV station aired a video that it said showed him asking a colleague to influence the awarding of a contract to build a power station.

WAfrica bank head resigns over Ivory Coast

BAMAKO, Mali (AP)—The head of the central bank of West African states, who has been accused of not cooperating with the internationally recognized

winner of Ivory Coast's presidential elections, resigned Saturday. The decision by Philippe Henri Dacoury-Tabley was announced after a meeting of the heads of state of the West African Economic and Monetary Union in Bamako, Mali. Ivory Coast's incumbent leader Laurent Gbagbo has refused to give up power despite international calls for his ouster. The regional central bank had recognized Alassane Ouattara as the head of state and revoked Gbagbo's access to state accounts in December. Officials with the regional union said that only representatives of Ouattara's government would have signing privileges on state accounts. The regional bank, known by its acronym BCEAO, regroups the treasuries of eight West

African countries.

Soldiers kill 10 gunmen in northern Mexico clash

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Soldiers patrolling a rural area on the border with Texas killed 10 suspected drug gang gunmen at a training camp, Mexico's Defense Department said Saturday. The military patrol came under attack after finding the camp of armed men in the town of Valle Hermoso, in the border state of Tamaulipas, on Friday, the department said in a statement. The soldiers returned fire and killed 10 suspects. Soldiers also seized weaponry including 24 rifles, two grenade launchers and 18 grenades, as well as an armored vehicle, it said.

Focus

By **MARYCLAIRE DALE**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—When Davida Johnson walked into Dr. Kermit Gosnell's clinic to get an abortion in 2001, she saw what she described as dazed women sitting in dirty, bloodstained recliners. As the abortion got under way, she had a change of heart—but claims she was forced by the doctor to continue.

"I said, 'I don't want to do this,' and he smacked me. They tied my hands and arms down and gave me more medication," Johnson told The Associated Press.

Johnson, then 21, had a 3-year-old daughter when she became pregnant again. She said she first went to Planned Parenthood in downtown Philadelphia but was frightened away by protesters.

"The picketers out there, they just scared me half to death," Johnson, now 30, recalled this week.

Someone sent her to Gosnell's West Philadelphia clinic, at the Women's Medical Society, saying anti-abortion protesters wouldn't be a problem there. She said she paid him \$400 cash.

A few months after the abortion, she began to have gynecological problems. An examination revealed venereal disease. She blames Gosnell, 69, for the lifelong illness, which she declined to identify, and for the four miscarriages she has subsequently suffered.

Johnson learned last week that Philadelphia prosecutors believe Gosnell frequently delivered late-term babies alive at his clinic, then severed their spines with scissors, and often stored the fetal bodies—along with staff lunches—in refrigerators at the squalid facility. Tiny baby feet, prosecutors said, were discovered in specimen jars, lined up in a macabre collection.

"Did he do that to mine? Did he stab him in the neck?" Johnson asked at her North Philadelphia home. "Because I was out of it. I don't know what he did to my baby."

Gosnell was charged last week with killing seven babies born alive and with the 2009 death of a 41-year-old refugee after a botched abortion at the clinic, which prosecutors have called a drug mill by day and abortion mill by night. The medical practice alone netted him at least \$1.8 million a year, much of it in cash, they say.

Prosecutors said uncounted hundreds more babies died there.

"(He) regularly and illegally delivered live, viable babies in the third trimester of pregnancy and then murdered these newborns by severing their spinal cords with scissors," said a report of the grand jury that investigated Gosnell and his clinic for a year.

The grand jury said while it believes Gosnell killed most of the babies he aborted after 24 weeks, it could not recommend murder charges for all of the cases.

"In order to constitute murder, the act must involve a baby who was born alive," the grand jury said, adding that it was stymied by files that were falsified or removed and possibly destroyed.

"His entire practice showed nothing but a callous disdain for the lives of his patients," said the nearly 300-page grand jury report, released Wednesday.

The panel also had scathing criticism for Pennsylvania state health and medical regulators, saying they had numer-



In this Friday, Jan. 21, 2011 photo, Davida Johnson, 30, relates her story of her 2001 abortion at Dr. Kermit Gosnell's clinic during an interview with the Associated Press in Philadelphia. AP

ous opportunities to shut Gosnell down over the years but ignored complaint after complaint about filthy conditions and illegal operations.

In all, prosecutors said, state officials failed to inspect the clinic despite repeated complaints from 1993 until January 2010, when a federal drug raid investigating heavy painkiller distribution at the clinic shut it down.

"His contempt for laws designed to protect patients' safety resulted in the death of Karnamaya Mongar," the refugee from Bhutan, the grand jury report said.

Unlicensed staff members gave Mongar far too much anesthesia for her 4-foot-11-inch, 110-pound body,

poor and minorities in the neighborhood where he grew up and raised his six children, who include a doctor, a college professor and two children who are still at home.

Defense lawyer William J. Brennan, who represented Gosnell during the investigation, said Gosnell "feels he has provided a general care medical facility in a fairly impoverished area for four decades."

"That's his belief," Brennan said, "and he's entitled to it."

Gosnell told the magistrate he's looking to retain another lawyer, and Brennan confirmed he's not representing Gosnell anymore.

"I wish him well, but I am not taking

Johnson never sued over the abortion or ensuing venereal disease, but 46 other parties have, including the family of 22-year-old Semika Shaw, who prosecutors said died of sepsis at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania in March 2002 two days after Gosnell perforated her uterus and cervix during an abortion.

Gosnell's insurer later settled the family's lawsuit over her death for \$900,000 and referred a complaint and the settlement to state health officials who oversee the clinic and Gosnell's medical license. The insurer's complaint brought no action, prosecutors said, because a Board of Medicine attorney said "the risk was inherent with

prosecutors wrote in the report.

Tina Baldwin, 45, is charged with corruption of minors and helping to run a corrupt enterprise. Eight of her co-workers were charged with Gosnell.

Baldwin's husband, Michael Baldwin, told the AP this week that his wife got the Gosnell clinic job eight years ago after a business school she attended referred her there for an internship. She worked up front, taking cash from patients as they walked in.

Baldwin denied that his wife performed any medical tasks or witnessed anything untoward at Gosnell's clinic. Ashley worked in recovery, making sure the patients had clothes and a ride home, he said.

"How's she going to give anesthesia? My daughter's scared of needles," he said of Ashley, who is now 20 and pregnant and still works in the medical field.

The younger woman, who prosecutors said was present the night Mongar died, was not charged.

Both women cooperated throughout the yearlong grand jury probe, and the family was therefore stunned—and angered—by Tina Baldwin's pre-dawn arrest on Wednesday, Michael Baldwin said.

Mongar had fled Bhutan and had survived nearly 20 years in refugee camps in Nepal, even after cholera took the life of a 4-year-old daughter. She and her family had made it to the United States just four months earlier to pursue "all that America has to offer," according to lawyer Bernard W. Smalley, who filed a medical malpractice lawsuit against Gosnell this week.

"She was the matriarch of their family, and now she's no longer there. Her children will all have to be raised without her," Smalley told the AP.

Mongar was referred to Gosnell's clinic in the city's impoverished Mantua section by a clinic in Virginia that did not do second-trimester abortions. Abortions are legal in Pennsylvania until 24 weeks; prosecutors said Gosnell routinely performed illegal third-trimester abortions—when babies are viable and the procedure is far more dangerous.

Gosnell was certified in family practice but had never finished an obstetrics/gynecology residency. In the words of Joanne Pescatore, a lead prosecutor on the case, "He does not know how to do an abortion."

Gosnell perforated the uteruses, bowels and cervixes of countless patients, the grand jury report charged. He left fetal parts inside, ignored post-operative pain and bleeding and passed venereal diseases from one patient to the next through bloody and dirty instruments, the report said.

Besides his abortion practice, authorities said, he ranked third in the state for the number of prescriptions he wrote for OxyContin, the highly addictive narcotic painkiller. Authorities allege that he left blank prescriptions for such drugs at his office and allowed staff to make them out to the cash-paying patients who streamed in during the day, when he wasn't there.

Johnson's husband, Bobby, was one of Gosnell's pain patients. He said he went to Gosnell last year, paying \$250 cash, to see the doctor about a debilitating pinched nerve. At the time, he said, he did not know his wife had gone to Gosnell years earlier, before they were married, for an abortion.

Did he do that to mine? Did he stab him in the neck? Because I was out of it. I don't know what he did to my baby.

hours before Gosnell arrived for his evening slate of abortions, the grand jury charged.

Gosnell, at his arraignment Thursday, said he did not understand why he was being charged with eight counts of murder.

"I understand the one count, because a patient died, but I didn't understand the seven counts," he told a magistrate.

The magistrate explained the other counts involved babies who prosecutors say were born alive, and she denied him bail.

Four other clinic employees are charged with murder for roles prosecutors say they had in the deaths of Mongar or the viable babies. Gosnell's wife was charged with performing illegal abortions and other crimes and is being held on \$1 million bail.

Gosnell, in an interview with the Philadelphia Daily News after the clinic raid last year, described himself as someone who wanted to serve the

this case," Brennan said. "The doctor and I have had our run."

In one 1999 case, prosecutors said, 20-year-old Marie Smith was sent home after a Gosnell abortion unaware that he had been unable to remove the entire fetus from her uterus. Days later, vomiting and with a swollen abdomen and severe infection, Smith was taken to a hospital, where she was rushed into surgery.

Her mother, Johnnie Mae Smith, said she was shocked at the "nasty and dirty, filthy" conditions in the clinic. When her daughter took ill days later, she called Gosnell.

"I said, 'What did you do to my daughter? ... My daughter's about to die,' Smith said. 'He said, 'Take her to the hospital.'"

Gosnell turned up at the hospital with his checkbook, she said, aiming to settle immediately. Instead, she chased him away, vowing to sue. Later, her daughter got \$3,000, after lawyer fees, from a \$5,000 settlement.

the procedure."

Gosnell typically worked from about 8 p.m. until after midnight, arriving only after his pregnant patients were dilated, sedated and ready for the abortion procedure.

During the day, his untrained or undertrained staff ran the clinic and practiced medicine there, authorities said. They ranged from two supposed "doctors" who had finished medical school but had no licenses to Ashley Baldwin, the 15-year-old daughter of office manager Tina Baldwin, prosecutors said. The teenager came after school to administer anesthesia and assist with abortions, even past midnight, the grand jury charged.

"As Ashley's involvement in Gosnell's illegal practices became deeper—at one point she was working 50-hour weeks and well past midnight, while trying to complete high school—Tina did nothing to curtail her minor daughter's exploitation by Gosnell,"

Health & Fitness

Cancer survivor aims to raze barriers with app

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—In the late 1990s, Marty Tenenbaum was a hotshot e-commerce entrepreneur riding high on the dot-com boom when he noticed a lump on his body.

His doctor told him it was nothing, but when he finally had it removed, he learned he had melanoma, the deadliest form of skin cancer. He beat the disease, but he never got over the sense of frustration he felt as he clawed his way through the maze of treatment options, clinical trials and research in search of a way to survive.

Now 67, Tenenbaum still believes he would not have made it if he hadn't had personal connections at the National Cancer Institute who guided him toward cutting-edge experimental treatments that saved his life.

The experience convinced him that the key to advancing cancer treatment and research is forging connections on as large

AP
In this Friday, Jan. 14, 2011 photo, Marty Tenenbaum, a survivor of the skin cancer melanoma, shows off his free app on his iPad in his Palo Alto, Calif., office.

a scale as possible. On Tuesday, he plans to launch a Web application to bring together patients, physicians and scientists regardless of where they work, live or went to college in hopes that the so-called wisdom of the crowd can lead to the best therapies.

"I'm just trying to pull together all the pieces that are needed to do a real, rational attack on cancer," Tenenbaum says. The way to do that, he says, is to pull people out of their individual labs, offices and hospitals to collaborate in a way not possible before the Web and mobile technologies made it easy to pool vast amounts of information.

"How much of cancer could be turned into a manageable disease if we only knew what we



knew?"

Tenenbaum is one of a growing number of supporters of the so-called open science move-

ment, which calls for greater sharing of research and the lowering of institutional, financial, legal and geographical barriers to bringing the best minds and data together to solve science's toughest problems. In its fledgling form, the Cancer Commons app integrates the existing data on different forms of melanoma and the most promising experimental treatments. Patients or their doctors input how far the disease has progressed, where

it started and whether tests have discovered any specific genetic mutations believed to contribute to the cancer's spread.

From that information, the app tells patients what specific cancer "subtype" they have as determined by an expert panel. They also learn what drugs have shown the most promise in treating that specific form of the disease and where clinical trials are being conducted that could allow patients access to

that treatment.

The app itself was built by Col-labRx, Tenenbaum's for-profit health care startup. It's free for doctors and patients. The company would make money through pharmaceutical company sponsorships of different apps, though Cancer Commons does not endorse specific drugs.

The data itself generated by the Cancer Commons project will be free and available for anyone to use, Tenenbaum says.

At Harvard University's Massachusetts General Hospital, Dr. Keith Flaherty studies melanoma treatments and sees patients with the most advanced forms of the disease. He volunteered to help lead the Cancer Commons melanoma project, which he says lets doctors and patients plug into a complex collection of data distilled into a simple set of treatment options.

Though Flaherty treats only melanoma, oncologists across the country are called on to treat all kinds of cancers. They don't have time to troll through obscure journals or websites to become experts on every variation of the disease, Flaherty says. An app like Cancer Commons lets those physicians plug into the knowledge of researchers like himself directly, he says.

Personal Trainer

Shoes made for walking

Almost any kind of athletic shoes can be used for fitness walking, but specially designed walking shoes have some advantages.

Fitness walking is a brisk, arm-swinging style of walking, done at a pace of about 15 min. per mile (9 min. per km)



Running shoe

- Thick wedge-shaped cushion absorbs heel impact

Does not compress very much when shoe is used for walking; heel lift can cause shin pain



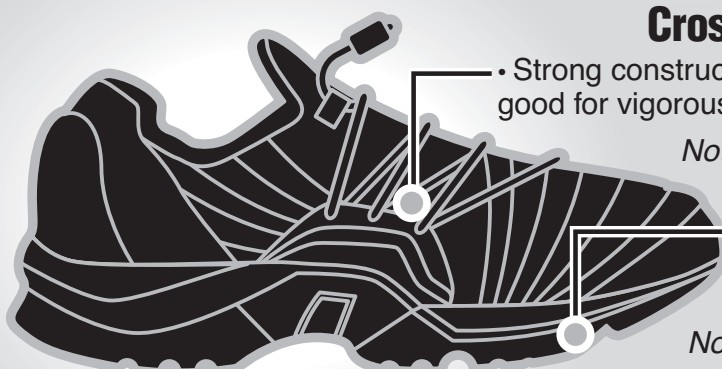
Cross-training shoe

- Strong construction holds foot firmly; good for vigorous sports, sprints

Not needed for walking; adds extra weight

Usually has deep tread for grass, loose surfaces

Not needed for walking on flat surfaces



Walking shoe

- Lightweight construction
- Comfortable padding
- Moderate cushioning in front and under heel
- Moderate tread gives good traction on pavement, other flat surfaces



Woman can speak again after voice box transplant

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—A woman whose natural voice could have been silenced forever because of vocal cord damage is able to talk again after undergoing a rare voice box transplant.

Brenda Charett Jensen, 52, reunited Thursday with the team of surgeons who performed the delicate operation last October, only the second surgery of its kind performed in the United States.

"It's just been amazing—simply, simply amazing. And I'm still in shock," Jensen said in a raspy voice at a news conference with her doctors. "I never know what's going to come tomorrow, but I know it's going to be better than where I've been."

Jensen damaged her vocal cords more than a decade ago after she repeatedly pulled out her breathing tube while under sedation in the hospital.

Because the injury left her breathing passage completely closed, the Modesto woman had also been unable to smell—a sensation that she is enjoying again.

Before the transplant, Jensen "talked" with the help of a hand-held device that produces an electronic voice.

The robotic-sounding device, which Jensen's granddaughter dubbed the "talkie-talkie," led to people hanging up on her or treating her like she was not there, so Jensen said the risk of the surgery was worth it.

After years of putting up



AP
Brenda Jensen demonstrates her transplanted larynx at the University of California, Davis MIND Institute in Sacramento, Calif., on Thursday Jan. 20, 2011.

with humiliation and teasing, "I was game to go. I wanted to talk again," said Jensen, a slim woman who walks with a cane.

The operation lasted 18 hours over two days. Doctors replaced her voice box, windpipe and thyroid gland with that of a donor who died in an accident. The transplant, which came after nearly two years of planning, was led by the University of California-Davis Medical Center and included experts from England and Sweden.

Chief surgeon Dr. Gregory Farwell said the neck is "an unbelievably complex structure" with tiny nerves that had to be

connected using sutures smaller than a human hair. Surgeons spent 10 hours working under a high-power microscope as they sewed the nerves back together, he said.

Two weeks after the transplant, Jensen voiced her first words to her doctors in a hoarse tone: "Good morning," followed by "I wanna go home" and "You guys are amazing."

Jensen has since been able to speak more easily. Doctors said Jensen's voice was her own and not that of the donor.

The special qualities of a person's voice are determined by the shape of the throat, mouth, nose and sinuses. Following the transplant, Jensen told doctors that friends who had not heard her speak in years were able to recognize hints of her "old" voice.

Jensen has worked a variety of jobs, including driving trucks and working in a restaurant and as an executive secretary before going on disability several years ago. She is not currently working, but she hopes to get a job again with her voice restored.

Soon after the surgery, Jensen said, she stepped out her door and smelled turkey wafting from her neighbor's home. She still can't eat or drink because she needs a tracheotomy tube to help her breathe, but she is working hard to strengthen her neck muscles so the tube can be removed.

Life & Style

Arin talks about her new book, silly clothes, and an exorcism in court

By ANGELO O'CONNOR VILLAGOMEZ
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

I first met Arin Greenwood at a blogger meetup on Saipan in 2006. Those blogger meetups weren't really meetups in the sense that we would hold actual meetings with agendas and things like that. A bunch of us would just go to Java Joe's and nibble on chicken nuggets while we IM'ed each other and avoided making eye contact.

Arin just published her first novel, *Tropical Depression*, which is loosely based on her five years practicing law in the Northern Mariana Islands. I was recently able to catch up with Arin over a cup of coffee and a blueberry scone in Washington, DC. After comparing notes on life after Saipan, we had the chance to talk about her new book.

Angelo O'Connor Villagomez: Can I just start by saying that I really love this book? I read it from cover to cover on a flight from Detroit to Tokyo. I loved it so much, in fact, that after a short nap I opened the book back up and read it again.

Arin Greenwood: That's about the nicest compliment I could ask for—thank you! And I must say: I love a captive audience.

AOV: No, really. Nina's story just sucked me in. I don't know if you'll appreciate this comparison, but I haven't enjoyed a book this much since I read the first *Harry Potter* book about 11 years ago.

AG: Now THAT is the nicest compliment I could ask for!

AOV: So let's talk about the book. The main character, Nina, is a twenty-something neurotic non-practicing Jewish vegetarian from the East Coast. How did you come up with this character?

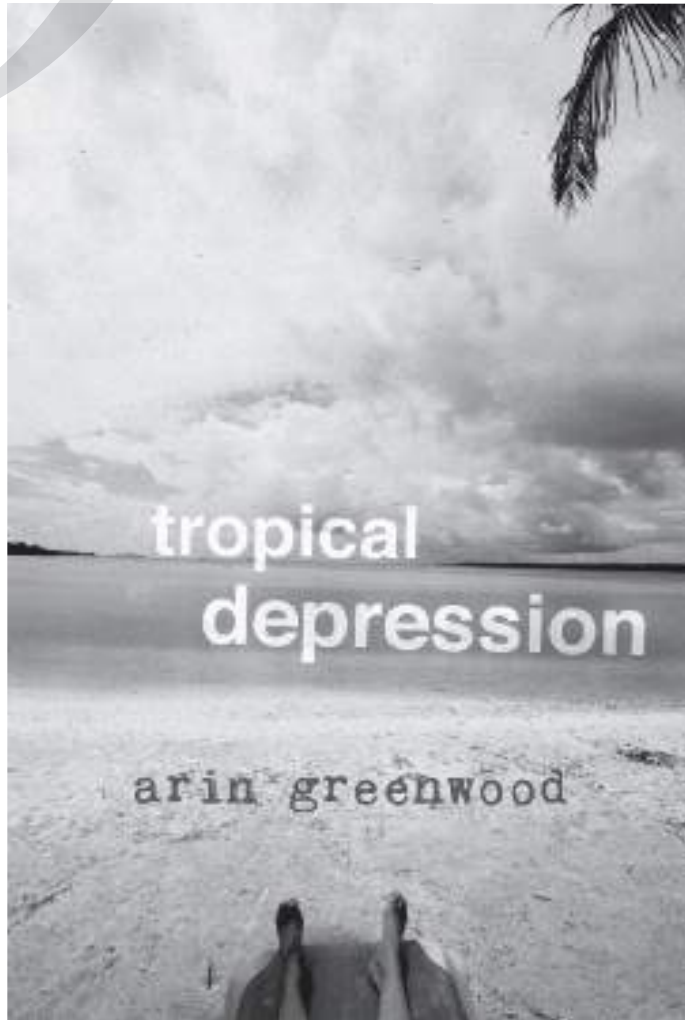
AG: It was a real stretch, despite that I was in fact a twenty-something neurotic non-practicing Jewish vegetarian from the East Coast when I started writing the book. By the time I finished writing it I was well into my thirties, though, and was a little less neurotic. Only a little though.

AOV: So would you be offended if I say that I wanted to break up with Nina about halfway through the second chapter?

AG: No way. She was a mess. You'd have been completely right to break up with her.

AOV: One of the things about this book is that it's not quite memoir, not quite fiction. What made you decide to take this middle ground?

AG: I didn't want to write a memoir because, thankfully, my own life isn't interesting enough to turn into a memoir. Also, I wanted to be able to make things up. As for why it isn't entirely fiction—it actually is mostly fiction. I mean, I'm not imaginative enough to write sci-fi or historical fiction, or to write about people or places that I've got no experience



with whatsoever, so my characters and stories will always have some element of real life in them. But the book really is fiction!

The book went through about a hundred drafts and revisions, and early versions were much more autobiographical and non-fictional than how the final book turned out. I had this idea that I wanted to write a book that was like life—the word I used to describe what

lawyer Nina meets on her first night on Miramar in the Bitter Haole (Miramar's most popular watering hole for ex-pats) a metaphor for something else, or are there really pot-bellied naked haoles running around that I don't know about?

AG: I never met a nudist in Saipan. Except at the strip clubs, and I'm not sure that counts. For sure I never met a nudist lawyer, sadly. Sadly?

As for the Bitter Haole—mostly that was just supposed to be funny.

AOV: Let's discuss the characters some more. Most of the characters seem like caricatures, with an *Alice in Wonderland*

quality to them. Is everyone on Miramar mad?

AG: No comment. You know, on a side note, I now live with a man, who I'm marrying soon, who doesn't believe in the concept of madness. He thinks the mind is a metaphor and therefore can't be "sick" the way that a physical body part could be sick. My mother, who has an MA in psychology, is just thrilled at his analysis, as you can imagine.

AOV: The character I liked the most was Captain Joe. To me he was the only voice of sanity in the entire book. What's the story with him?

AG: I love that character. He was based on a few people I've known, in different places. One

was a guy I knew in Florida—and, actually, the apartment building where Nina lives in *Tropical Depression*, was based on an apartment building I lived in Naples, Florida, when my college boyfriend and I decided to drop out of school for a while and live at the beach for a while. It was this great rundown old building, a few blocks from a pier where people would go fishing and pelicans would fly around to try to get the fish off the lines, where working people would live nine months of the year, then would get kicked out during the high season. There were lots of characters who lived in the building, including a boat captain I got to know, who I always thought would make a wonderful character.

Captain Joe is also based on some people I met in Micronesia—some really amazing people I met in Guam and Saipan when I was working on a story about

Carolinian star navigators for ANA's inflight magazine. He's also a little bit based on another person I met in Saipan, who was in fact searching for a rare starfish he'd spotted once and then had never seen again.

So that character, like almost all the characters, is a composite character—he shares qualities with some real people, and has a lot of made up stuff about him, and it's mixed together into a fictional, hopefully lovable, character.

AOV: Nina's fashion sense (or lack thereof) plays a big role in the story. You go to great lengths to describe just about every single article of clothing Nina wears during her year in Miramar. Were you channeling *Memoirs of a Geisha* for Goth vegetarians?

AG: Ha. No. So for Nina, I think she feels like her clothes are supposed to be her outward manifestation of who she really is. But

she obviously has terrible fashion sense. So the clothes, in a way, are supposed to show that while she considers herself to be so self-aware, she's really displaying in full show what a mess she is on the inside. I think she's also trying to use clothes to make herself feel comfortable in her own skin—they are supposed to be her skin, in a way. But of course by dressing in this silly way she makes herself uncomfortable, in the end, because she's not dressed appropriately for her situation. She's wearing silly dresses to serious jobs, for example—but in a way I think she's trying to make herself uncomfortable in these situations. Like, she could just go out and buy herself a suit and wear a suit to work, right? But instead she purposely doesn't wear a suit—she wants the world to know that she doesn't belong in any of the worlds where she's found herself. But she's also looking for a world where she can be herself, and have that be all right. See—actually, the whole clothes thing is very deep!

AOV: You were a practicing attorney on Saipan for five years. How closely do Miramar's courts resemble real life?

AG: Well, some of the more surreal parts of the *Tropical Depression* courts actually are true to life. There really was an exor-

See ARIN on Next Page

Death and Funeral Announcement

In Celebration of His New Life

Juan Camacho Babauta

also known as "John"

Born To Life: January 31, 1960

Called to Eternal Rest: Tuesday (06:15 am) January 11, 2011 at Guam Memorial Hospital

In his new life he now joins his:

Mother: Juana Camacho Babauta
Brother-in-law: Thomas Sablan Basa
Maternal Grandparents: Maria Concepcion San Nicolas/Juan Muna Camacho
Paternal Grandparents: Rufina Lizama/Joaquin Dela Cruz Babauta

His memories will forever be remembered in the hearts of his:

Wife: Bernadeth Ann Ocampo Babauta
Father: Felix L. Babauta
Stepmother: Araceli Amores Babauta

Former wife: Jovita Songao Camacho, he is also survived by his children and grandchildren: John Jr./Children, Patrick Brandon/Children, Bradley Phrancoise, Natalie Colleen and Christopher Rayver O. Babauta

Brothers, Sisters & Spouses:

Susana C. Babauta/Juan Deleon Guerrero, Delfina C. Babauta/Alfred Saures, Maria B. Diaz/Romeo A. Diaz, Jose C. Babauta/Maria T., Melvia B./Vicente A. Concepcion, Serafin C. Babauta/Juanita M., Lucia B./Diego C. Mafnas, Rebecca B./Ramon S. Dela Cruz, Barbara C. Babauta/Joseph T. Santos, Michelle A. Babauta, Doreen A. Babauta/Kenneth A. Babauta.

Numerous Aunties, Uncles, Cousins, Nieces, Nephews & God Children

Schedule of Services:

On Tuesday, January 25, 2011, his remains will be escorted at 7:00 am from Borja's Funeral Home to San Roque Church. Mass of Christian Burial will commence at 11:00 am and interment services will follow at Mt. Carmel Cathedral Cemetery in Chalan Kanoa. Lunch will be served at the family residence in San Roque.

Please join us in prayers.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase' ginen i familia.



Russian spy Anna Chapman reveals 'all the secrets'

MOSCOW (AP)—Russian spy Anna Chapman stares seductively into the camera lens and declares “I will uncover all the secrets.” It’s the top of a new television show that takes her post-espionage career as a media persona to a new level.

The secrets to which the 28-year-old Chapman alludes aren’t about her years of undercover work in the U.S., but on unexplained mysteries of the occult.

The new television show, which debuted Friday night on the private REN-TV network, further raises Chapman’s profile among Russians who have already seen her pose half-naked in a men’s magazine and attend a rocket launch.

It also neatly avoids her previous life as a deep cover spy in America, something she has vowed not to discuss and the network’s officials have promised not to raise.

“We don’t talk about the situation that made Anna famous. We understand that her activities were in the interests of the state,” REN-TV’s documentary series head Mikhail Tukmachyov was quoted as saying in mass-selling daily Komsomolskaya Pravda.

Chapman, in a red-and-black dress with a black collar, nar-



AP
In this Dec. 22, 2010 file photo, Anna Chapman, who was deported from the U.S. on charges of espionage, is seen on stage during an event with leaders of the Young Guards, a pro-Kremlin youth movement she joined, in Moscow, Russia.

rated some of Friday’s show, which probed how Arabic script might have appeared on the skin of a child in the southern Russian province of Dagestan. She provided slick studio segues between film pieces throughout the show, using the kinds of terms that might have come in handy in her previous life.

Introducing an interview with the family of the 2-year-old boy, Ali Yakubov, Chapman says: “My sources in Dagestan tell me that the Yakubovs fear for their lives,” and that they had previously denied reporters access. “I talked them into it,” she says.

It is a fitting new stage in the career of Chapman, who appears determined to cement her Bond girl image.

Chapman stripped down to lingerie in a photo shoot for the Russian edition of Maxim, appearing on the cover of the November issue under the caption “For Your Eyes Only.”

A month earlier, she attended a Russian rocket launch in Kazakhstan where she brushed aside questions from a reporter.

She has also become the new celebrity face of a Moscow bank that works with aerospace industries and joined the leadership of the youth wing of the main pro-Kremlin party.

ARIN

From Page 19

cism at the court, after a law clerk died there, for example. The prosecutors really did complain that witch doctors would come to trials, and intimidate witnesses and jurors. There really was a case where an inmate escaped from jail, repeatedly, after the guards left his cell door open, and claimed he couldn’t be sent back because he was too claustrophobic. I wish I could have made this stuff up, but I’m just not that creative.

And, just being serious for a second, I think that there really is an issue in Saipan—as in all small communities—about how it is possible for justice, which presumes objectivity, to be meted out when everyone knows everyone. I actually have thought about applying for a Fulbright or some other fancy grant to study juries and justice in small communities. One day perhaps I’ll go beyond just thinking about it?

But I never heard judges or justices use personal connections with people as a reason to decide a case one way or another—that part of it is made up. And while there was quite a lot

of talk about Spam at the court, no one ever actually tricked me into eating it; I was far, far too clever to fall for that. There was a lot of cha-cha at the court, though—that part is true.

AOV: And now for my last question: So who gets to play Nina in the movie?

AG: Is this the part where I get to be wildly optimistic? My mom thinks that Natalie Portman should play Nina. I think my fiancé would like it if Mila Kunis played Nina. I think either of them would make an excellent choice for the role. Who do you think should play Nina?

AOV: Well, after watching *Black Swan* I have to admit I’d go see just about any movie with those two. However, they might not be kooky enough. How about space cowboy turned robot assassin turned crime-fighting blogger Summer Glau? Christina Ricci would also be great, too. She’s does weirdo like nobody else.

Angelo O’Connor Villagomez is a regular contributor for the Saipan Tribune. You can keep up with him on The Saipan Blog, Saipan’s most popular blog since ever since. Tropical Depression is available in paperback and for Kindle on Amazon.com.

That uproar over ‘Skins’: A blessing for the show

By FRAZIER MOORE
AP TELEVISION WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—You gotta love a show that can upstage MTV’s raunchy reality hit, “Jersey Shore.”

“Skins” has done it.

In a week of TV happenings that included Ricky Gervais going comedically postal at the Golden Globes and the return of “American Idol,” “Skins” soared to most-talked-about status, even reducing the reprise of attention-sucking “Jersey Shore” to the level, for the moment, of “Snooki who?”

Way to go, MTV! For a network that’s no stranger to provocative fare or contro-

versy, here’s another buzz-blessed smash!

Most people know by now that “Skins” is a steamy scripted drama about overwrought teens, spun off from the acclaimed British series of the same name. It began its 10-episode season last Monday on the wings of heavy promotion by MTV, generally positive reviews and high anticipation by its young target audience.

There was also a smattering of pre-opening outcry, mainly as an inevitable protest from the Parents Television Council, a TV watchdog group. It declared that “‘Skins’ may well be the most dangerous television show for children that we have

ever seen,” which had to be as welcome a critical rave as MTV could wish.

The premiere of “Skins” drew 3.3 million viewers, 1.2 million of them under 18, the Nielsen Co. reported. This was a robust turnout, though hardly in the league of “Jersey Shore,” which, a week ago, seized 8.4 million viewers for its Season 3 debut.

But this is only the beginning for “Skins.” With its new wave of publicity, it has nowhere to go but up.

On Thursday, a front-page story in The New York Times introduced the notion that “Skins” may—with the emphasis on “may”—be trafficking in kiddie porn.

“Skins” producers have boasted of its gritty realism. In that spirit, many of the teenage characters are played by actors who are 17 or younger, and therefore legally minors.

Executives at MTV “in recent days” have become concerned that some scenes “may violate federal child pornography statutes,” the Times reported, without naming those executives.

Faced with the possibility that future episodes of the show may be breaking the law, those unnamed MTV executives “ordered the producers to make changes to tone down some of the most explicit content,” the Times reported.

Oddly, the only potentially problematic scene the Times identified occurs in the third



AP
In this publicity image released by MTV, Rachel Thevenard portrays Michelle, left, and Camille Cresencia-Mills portrays Daisy in a scene from the adolescent drama “Skins,” premiering Monday, Jan. 17, 2011 at 10 p.m. EST on MTV.

episode, airing Jan. 31. Jesse Carere, a 17-year-old actor playing the tragicomic character Chris, is shown from behind, naked, striding down the street. In the preview of that episode provided to critics, the played-for-laugh sequence lasts about 10 seconds, and it’s impossible to tell whether Carere was really in the buff when shooting the scene.

In the face of brewing controversy, MTV said “Skins” is a show “that addresses real-world issues confronting teens in a frank way.

“We review all of our shows and work with all of our pro-

ducers on an ongoing basis to ensure our shows comply with laws and community standards,” the statement continued. “We are confident that the episodes of ‘Skins’ will not only comply with all applicable legal requirements, but also with our responsibilities to our viewers.”

Any scenes that might leave MTV, well, exposed will be up to the lawyers to determine, if it comes to that. In the four episodes shared with critics, “Skins” shows almost no skin. Despite all the talk of sex, there is almost no explicit sex depicted.

Nonetheless, by raising the

specter of kiddie porn, the Times story made “Skins” notorious with new urgency. And it gave the show’s detractors a fresh new front for attack. (Viewers who condemn a show like, say, “Jersey Shore,” must acknowledge at least that its degenerate house mates are adults, whether they act like it or not.)

Within hours of the story, the PTC called for the U.S. Senate and House Judiciary Committees and the Department of Justice to “immediately open an investigation regarding child pornography and exploitation on MTV’s ‘Skins.’”

TOP TEN LIST

The Associated Press

Jay-Z

iTunes’ top 10 selling singles and albums of the week ending Jan. 17, 2010:

SINGLES

1. “Hold It Against Me,” Britney Spears
2. “Grenade,” Bruno Mars
3. “Tonight (feat. Ludacris & DJ Frank E),” Enrique Iglesias
4. “Firework,” Katy Perry
5. “Black and Yellow,” Wiz Khalifa
6. “What the Hell,” Avril Lavigne
7. “The Time (Dirty Bit),” Black Eyed Peas
8. “We R Who We R,” Ke\$ha
9. “6 Foot 7 Foot (feat. Cory Gunz),” Lil Wayne
10. “H.A.M.,” Kanye West,

ALBUMS

1. “Country Strong (More Music from the Motion Picture),” Various Artists
2. “Sigh No More,” Mumford & Sons
3. “Thank You Happy Birthday,” Cage the Elephant
4. “Country Strong (Original Motion Picture Soundtrack),” Various Artists
5. “Showroom of Compassion,” Cake
6. “Brothers,” The Black Keys
7. “Rehab: The Overdose,” Lecrae
8. “My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy,” Kanye West
9. “TRON: Legacy,” Daft Punk
10. “Doo-Wops & Hooligans,” Bruno Mars

Winfrey promises to spill family secret Monday

By LYNN ELBER
AP TELEVISION WRITER

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Oprah Winfrey has staged many a family reunion on her talk show. But on Monday's episode, she promises, the drama will be about her.

Winfrey told viewers Thursday that she will have a reunion of her own on "The Oprah Winfrey Show." She wouldn't say with whom—only that it involves something she's learned about recently and is known to only a few people close to her.

"I thought I'd seen it all. But this, my friends, is the miracle of all miracles," Winfrey says in a promotional spot for the show. The word "miracle" appears on screen, reinforcing her pronouncement.

"I was given some news that

literally shook me to my core. This time, I'm the one being reunited," she said. "I was keeping a family secret for months, and on Monday you're going to hear it straight from me."

Her production company, Harpo, declined to provide further details Friday.

Given Winfrey's tangled family history, the possibilities for her reunion are many.

She was born to unmarried teenagers, Vernon Winfrey and Vernita Lee, and raised at various times by a grandmother, her mother, and her father and stepmother in Mississippi, Wisconsin and Tennessee, according to Winfrey and various biographies.

However, Kitty Kelley's unauthorized 2010 biography of Win-

frey alleges that Vernon Winfrey isn't Oprah's biological father. Kelley also claims that she discovered the actual father's identity but was keeping it secret until Winfrey learns the truth herself.

As a teenager, Oprah Winfrey gave birth to a son who died shortly afterward. That chapter of her life was revealed after a family member sold the story to a tabloid in 1990, and Winfrey was said to have felt betrayed.

Using her Chicago-based show to disclose a new wrinkle in her personal history allows her to keep other media from getting hold of it first.

Winfrey has proved herself a master at milking family reunion drama, celebrity and otherwise,

on her syndicated talk show that's in its 25th and final season. This month, she launched a cable channel, OWN.

She reunited more than 100 members of the Osmonds. She brought together both the screen family from "The Sound of Music" and descendants of the real-life members of the musical Von Trapp family portrayed in the film. After decades apart, singer Seal and his foster sister were reunited on Winfrey's show.

There was also the memorable reunion involving Cleman-tine and Claire Wamariya, sisters who escaped the Rwandan genocide and later immigrated to America without knowing if their parents had survived. They learned they had, but it wasn't until they were onstage with Winfrey that the sisters saw their mother and father again.



Winfrey

Zsa Zsa Gabor heading home a week after amputation

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Zsa Zsa Gabor's publicist says the actress is going home from the hospital, a week after doctors amputated most of her right leg.

John Blanchette says doctors are pleased with Gabor's recovery and she'll be transported by ambulance Saturday evening back to her Bel Air mansion.

Doctors at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center decided

to amputate Jan. 14 when a persistent infection wouldn't heal. She had been expected to remain in the hospital for at least two weeks.

Blanchette says the 93-year-old "Moulin Rouge" and "Queen of Outer Space" star will be monitored daily by nurses.

He says Gabor is happy to be heading home.

Gabor broke her hip and had replacement surgery in July. She has been hospitalized sev-

eral times for swelling in her legs and blood clots throughout her body.

Ivanka Trump says she and husband expecting baby

NEW YORK (AP)—Ivanka Trump and her husband are expecting their first child.

The co-hosts of the "Celebrity Apprentice" reality TV show announced Friday on Twitter that she's pregnant. In 2009, she married Jared Kushner, a New York real estate scion and publisher of The New York Observer weekly newspaper.

The 29-year-old Trump hasn't said when she's due.

Trump, the daughter of Donald Trump and his former wife Ivana, is a vice president at her father's real estate company and has a jewelry company. She graduated from the University of Pennsylvania.

Kushner's father was a prominent Democratic political do-



AP

Television personality Ivanka Trump attends a benefit for breast cancer research at Jazz At Lincoln Center in this Oct. 13, 2010 file photo taken in New York.

nor who pleaded guilty to campaign and tax law violations.

Grieving parents receive disturbing gift with poise

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: At a recent anniversary celebration for my parents, a well-meaning but thoughtless in-law sent them a gift from my deceased sister, with a card signed with her name. She died of cancer two years ago.

Her loss has been difficult and heartbreaking for all of us, especially my parents. I am furious at this guest for giving such a "gift." My parents were visibly shocked, but thanked the person anyway.

I knew the in-law was planning something like this, and I asked that it not be done at the party. I wish I had just said, "No! Don't do it!" I'm not sure whether I am madder at the gift giver or myself. I feel like the work we have done to recover from the loss has been set back. I could use some good advice.

SPEECHLESS IN NEW JERSEY

DEAR SPEECHLESS: Your parents are extraordinarily gracious people to have handled the situation as tactfully as they did. It must have been devastating for them. The in-law's level of insensitivity is appalling.

Please do not blame yourself for what happened. If you had said, "Don't do it," it probably would have happened anyway. What's done is done, now let it go.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My husband moved out on Feb. 14 of last year. (Yes, Valentine's Day!) Our divorce will be final soon.

My soon-to-be-ex parades his girlfriend all over town and with our friends. He claims it is over between us, yet he still comes over to mow the yard for me and do errands. He also comes here every Sunday to watch TV and visit. He says he wants to remain close friends even after the divorce.

My question is: What gives with him? I don't understand him at all.

ARE WE DONE YET?

DEAR ARE WE DONE YET?: For a man to move out on Valentine's Day illustrates that he has the emotional sensitivity of a golf shoe. Your ex may be doing these things out of guilt. Whether the two of you are done yet depends upon how you define "done." Your marriage is over. Your romance is, too. What's left to tie you together? If it's masochism on your part, I don't recommend it.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: While I was at the grocery store, the woman in front of me said hello like she recognized me. I recognized her, but didn't remember her name or where I knew her from. I asked her some lame questions about art class, but it was obvious I didn't know her from there. It was very embarrassing.

The message I would like to give your readers is, please don't assume that someone can place you immediately. I am 70, and my memory is no longer as good as it used to be. The woman should have made sure I knew who she was, because it could have saved both of us from embarrassment.

RED-FACED IN LEE'S SUMMIT, MO.

DEAR RED-FACED: I'm pleased to pass along your message. I have always thought the best policy in these situations is honesty. Because you were unable to place the woman, you should have told her you couldn't recall her name and asked her. To do so would not have been a breach of etiquette, and the encounter would have been less embarrassing for both of you.

■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." To order, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

WikiLeaks founder's story optioned as feature film

LOS ANGELES (AP)—An upcoming biography of WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange isn't even in stores yet, and it's already been optioned into a feature film. Plans are under way for Andrew Fowler's book, "The Most Dangerous Man in the World," to be turned into a movie. The Australian reporter first interviewed Assange last May, and his investigative biography is due out later this year. Josephson Entertainment and Michelle Krumm Productions jointly optioned the movie rights. Assange, 39, is the founder of WikiLeaks, a whistle-blowing website that revealed classified information. He's in London, where he's battling extradition to Sweden over sex-crime allegations.

Jet Li calls on Vietnamese to give blood

HANOI, Vietnam (AP)—Action star Jet Li is in Vietnam calling on young people to donate blood ahead of the busy Lunar New Year when millions of people travel. The actor posed for photos with fans while visiting a park in the capital, Hanoi, where

the Vietnam Red Cross was taking blood donations Saturday. He also awarded gifts to donors who have given blood several times during the year. Li said: "I always believe that human beings are always a global family, willing to help each other." Li is a Goodwill Ambassador for the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. His visit comes ahead of the Lunar New Year, or Tet, which begins Feb. 3. Blood is typically in demand during this time, when many accidents occur as people rush to get home.

Bud locks up Super Bowl beer ads through 2014

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The owner of Budweiser says it has locked up its position as the only national beer advertiser in the Super Bowl television broadcast through 2014. The brewer, which became Anheuser-Busch InBev NV in 2008, has had a presence in the NFL's championship game as the exclusive beer advertiser for 23 years. This year, it will again feature its famous Clydesdale horses and, according to Kantar Media, it will keep its spot as the game's largest ad

buyer. The week of the Super Bowl, which will be played on Feb. 6, is a busy one for brewers with beer sales rising as much as 20 percent above a typical week in January or February.

Nurse fired over Tiger Woods' records is suing

OCOE, Florida (AP)—A nurse who was fired for looking at golfer Tiger Woods' medical records in the days after his November 2009 car crash is suing an Orlando-area hospital for defamation. David M. Rothenberg has sued Health Central for \$400,000 in damages, reinstatement, and is asking for a letter from hospital officials explaining that he was fired based on circumstantial evidence. Woods was treated at the facility after the crash outside his home in Windermere, Fla., Orlando's richest suburb. Officials say they fired Rothenberg, a registered nurse, in December 2009 for using his computer to look at Woods' records three times over a 10-minute period. Rothenberg faces losing his nursing license because of the allegations. In the lawsuit, he denies looking at the records.

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First Friday, January 21, 2011

Durant triple lifts Thunders over Knicks



OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)--Kevin Durant made a 3-pointer as time expired and finished with 30 points to lift Oklahoma City over New York, 101-98.

Durant was tightly guarded on the right wing but connected while leaning back in front of the Knicks bench, extending New York's losing streak to six games.

The Thunder hadn't led since early in the second quarter, but erased a six-point deficit in the final 3 minutes.

"I'd rather get beat by 15 points than get beat like that," said the Knicks' Raymond Felton, who missed three shots in the final 48 seconds to give the Thunder a chance.

"It's always a tough loss when it's a game-winner like that."

Gallinari scored 23 points and Amare Stoudemire had 18 points and 12 rebounds to lead the Knicks. Stoudemire also picked up his 13th technical foul of the season, as part of a double-technical with Oklahoma City's Serge Ibaka in the fourth quarter.

Russell Westbrook scored 28 points and Ibaka had 11 points and 15 rebounds for the Thunder. Durant also had 12 rebounds and distanced himself from a brief shooting slump that materialized during Oklahoma City's back-to-back losses.

Durant had made only one-third of his shots in the Thunder's road losses to the Lakers and Nuggets, then started out 5 for 16 against New York, shaking his head when a 3-point attempt hit the front and back rim before bouncing away.

That's when it all started turning around.

Durant finally broke through with a 3 from the top of the key with 50 seconds left in the third quarter, and also hit a runner during a quick 7-0 burst that got Oklahoma City back within 77-75 for the start of the fourth.

When it came down to a tie game with 6.5 seconds left, Durant let coach Scott Brooks know he wanted the ball despite his recent struggles.

"It's all a lesson, I think," Durant said. "I was getting some great shots. I was getting into the lane. Some shots were short. I think I was aiming it a little bit too much and they were just falling off the rim. But I stuck with it."

Durant hadn't hit a game-winner since his rookie season, when the franchise was still in Seattle. He went on to win Rookie of the Year, then became the NBA's youngest scoring champion last season and is leading the league again this season.

Clippers 113, Warriors 109

In Los Angeles, Blake Griffin hit a go-ahead 3-pointer in the final minute to cap a 30-point effort, tied a career high with 18 rebounds and established another with eight assists to lead the Los Angeles Clippers to a 113-109 victory over the Golden State Warriors on Saturday night.

The Clippers won for the 12th time in 17 games and extended their home winning streak to seven - their longest since a seven-game stretch during the 2004-05 season.

Eric Gordon scored 23 points, all of them before a bruised lower back temporarily forced him out of the game with 4:44 left in the third quar-



Oklahoma City Thunder forward Serge Ibaka, left, of Republic of Congo, shoots as New York Knicks forward Amare Stoudemire, right, defends in the fourth quarter of an NBA basketball game in Oklahoma City, Saturday, Jan. 22, 2011. Oklahoma City won, 101-98.

ter and Los Angeles leading 77-67. Baron Davis had just seven points and six assists in 28 minutes against his former club after getting in early foul trouble.

Gordon, the Clippers' leading scorer, collided in the air with center Andris Biedrins after driving the lane for an attempted layup and landed hard on his back. He spent several anxious moments on the floor, then made both of his free throws and played another 17 seconds before going to the dress-

ing room for treatment. He missed almost 14 minutes while getting treatment, then returned for the final 2:45.

Hornets 96, Spurs 72

In New Orleans, the Hornets earned an eighth consecutive victory and ended San Antonio's streak at the same number with a surprisingly one-sided 96-72 win over the Spurs in the NBA on Saturday.

One night after winning by 41 at Atlanta, the Hornets led by as many

as 31 against a Spurs team that has the NBA's best record but which also has lost twice to New Orleans.

David West had 18 points and 10 rebounds for New Orleans while Marcus Thornton and Trevor Ariza each hit all four 3-pointers they took as the Hornets set a season high with 12 3s. Thornton finished with 18 points and Ariza 15.

Tony Parker's 10 points made him the only double-digit scorer among the Spurs starters, who spent much of the second half on the bench.

Magic 118, Rockets 104

In Houston, Orlando built a big first-half lead on its way to the easy victory over Houston.

Dwight Howard had 22 points and 14 rebounds and Hedo Turkoglu added 21 points for the Magic, who went 13 for 32 from 3-point range. Orlando came in leading the league in 3-pointers made and attempted.

Chase Budinger scored 19 points to lead the Rockets, who shot 39 percent.

Wizards 85, Celtics 83

In Washington, John Wall banked in a 3-pointer with the shot clock running down in the game's final minute as Washington completed a comeback from 16-point, first-quarter deficit to beat Boston.

Wall's fast-break layup with 2:35 to play gave the Wizards their first lead, and after the Celtics tied it, Wall made his team's only 3-pointer of the game to put Washington ahead 84-81 with 58 seconds remaining.

Kevin Garnett converted a layup to pull Boston within one but Paul Pierce missed an 18-footer in the final seconds, and the Celtics' five-game winning streak ended.

Wall finished with 16 points, six rebounds and four assists for the Wizards.

Hawks 103, Bobcats 87

In Charlotte, Joe Johnson scored 32 points as an undermanned Atlanta bounced back from a humiliating loss and defeated Charlotte.

Josh Smith added 16 points for Atlanta, which was coming off a 100-59 home loss to New Orleans.

Atlanta was without injured starters Al Horford and Marvin Williams. Reserve Josh Powell was also suspended from the game for conduct detrimental to the team.

D.J. Augustin scored 20 points for the Bobcats, who got little from slumping Stephen Jackson and Gerald Wallace.

76ers 96, Jazz 85

In Philadelphia, Andre Iguodala scored 22 points to lead Philadelphia over Utah.

Lou Williams added 20 for the Sixers who notched a 13th home win, already bettering last season's 12 home victories.

Deron Williams had 20 points and 14 assists for the Jazz, who dropped their fourth in a row—their longest skid in slightly more than a year.

Heat 120, Raptors 103

In Miami, LeBron James had 38 points and 11 rebounds to beat Toronto and halt Miami's slide at four losses.

Mike Miller scored 22 of his 32 points in the second quarter for Miami, which played without Dwyane Wade and Chris Bosh. The Heat led 32-17 after a quarter and 66-40 at halftime, then held on after Toronto got within seven with 6:27 remaining.

DeMar DeRozan scored 30 for the Raptors, who wrapped an 0-5 road trip and dropped their seventh straight overall. Toronto had only nine players available for the game.

Mavericks 87, Nets 86

In Newark, New Jersey, Dirk Nowitzki hit a jumper in the lane with 6 seconds to play as Dallas continued its dominance over New Jersey.

The Nets messed up their chance at a game-winning attempt, and Jordan Farmar was forced to toss up an off-balance shot at the buzzer that didn't come close to going in.

Nowitzki finished with 23 points on 7-of-24 shooting from the field. Tyson Chandler added 19 points for Dallas, which has won five in a row and 19 of 22 against New Jersey.

Bulls 92, Cavaliers 79

In Chicago, the hosts extended Cleveland's losing streak to 16 games.

Cleveland has also lost 20 straight on the road, one shy of the franchise record.

Derrick Rose scored 24 points while Carlos Boozer and Luol Deng scored 20 points apiece for Chicago, which blew most of a 20-point lead in the fourth quarter before pulling away again.

Grizzlies 94, Bucks 81

In Milwaukee, Zach Randolph set a franchise record with his 10th straight double-double as Memphis defeated Milwaukee.

Randolph finished with 16 points and 11 rebounds for the Grizzlies.

Marc Gasol had 24 points and 16 rebounds for Milwaukee.

Pistons 75, Suns 74

In Auburn Hills, Michigan, Austin Daye made a go-ahead jumper with 53 seconds left as Detroit edged Phoenix.

Tayshaun Prince led Detroit with 17 points, 13 rebounds and five assists.

AP source: Damon, Manny Ramirez agree with Rays



NEW YORK (AP)—Manny Ramirez and Johnny Damon are about to become teammates again, this time in Tampa Bay.

Both free-agent outfielders agreed to one-year contracts with the Rays, a person familiar with the negotiations told The Associated Press on Friday night. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the agreements were subject to physicals and had not been announced.

Damon gets \$5.25 million and the chance to earn \$750,000 in bonuses based on attendance, the person said. Ramirez gets \$2 million.

The moves mark the first major additions for the AL East champions after a devastating offseason in which one prominent player after another left cost-cutting Tampa Bay.

Carl Crawford, Carlos Pena and Rafael Soriano signed elsewhere as free agents. Matt Garza and Jason Bartlett were traded. A strong bullpen was depleted by the losses of Joaquin Benoit, Grant Balfour, Dan Wheeler, Randy

Choate and Chad Qualls.

Ramirez and Damon played together for four years in Boston and helped lead the Red Sox to the 2004 World Series title—ending the team's 86-year championship drought. Both colorful characters are well past their primes, but if nothing else they could at least provide an attraction at Tropicana Field for a Rays team that drew just 1.86 million fans last year.

The 38-year-old Ramirez began last season with the Los Angeles Dodgers, then was claimed on waivers late in the summer by the Chicago White Sox. He hit a combined .298 with nine homers and 42 RBIs in the final season of a \$45 million, two-year contract he signed with the Dodgers.

Hampered by injuries, the longtime slugger had 320 plate appearances in 90 games. Still a power threat, he likely will be a designated hitter for the Rays.

Ramirez's career took a downward turn in May 2009 when he was suspended 50 games for using a banned

female fertility drug.

The 12-time All-Star has 555 home runs, good for 14th on the career list, and 1,830 RBIs, which ranks 18th. He also helped Boston win the 2007 World Series, then was traded to the Dodgers the following season.

The 37-year-old Damon spent last season with the Detroit Tigers, batting .271 with eight homers and 51 RBIs, mostly as a DH. Weak-armed in left field and no longer the stolen base threat he once was, Damon remains very durable—he played 145 games last year and hit 36 doubles in 539 at-bats.

Damon, who is from nearby Orlando, can pad his paycheck by making a difference at the gate. He would get \$150,000 each for 1.75 million, 1.85 million, 1.95 million, 2.05 million and 2.15 million in home attendance.

A two-time All-Star, Damon spent four years with the New York Yankees and helped them win the 2009 World Series. They let him leave as a free agent and he signed an \$8 million, one-year deal with Detroit.

NFL's Final Four has mixed Super Bowl history



PITTSBURGH (AP)—Next step, the Super Bowl. The NFL's Final Four has a strong connection to the big game, from the first champion (Packers) to the winner of perhaps the most significant game (Jets). And from possibly the best Super Bowl team (1985 Bears) to the most dominant franchise of the era (Steelers).

Any matchup at Cowboys Stadium next month will feature plenty of history.

So much so that Green Bay coach Mike McCarthy has emphasized wanting to put up a photo of these Packers on the wall next to the other championship teams - including the first two Super Bowl winners (1966 and '67 seasons), and the 1996 squad.

"We've never lost sight of it because it's always right behind me every day when I speak to the team," McCarthy said of his Packers, who face 90-year rival Chicago at Soldier Field on Sunday for the NFC title. "I pointed to that again ... we're halfway there. We talked about 16 quarters as a football team. We've completed eight of them. And we need to capture these four in Chicago, and it puts us closer to getting that picture on the wall."

"It's a goal that's still in front of us and it was a goal when we started and it's still a goal today."

That the Packers (12-6) face the Bears (12-5) for the 182nd time with a spot in the Super Bowl on the line adds another historic chapter to the longest series in pro football. Should the Bears win, they would earn their third trip to the big game, one fewer than Green Bay, which is 3-1 in Super Bowls. Chicago is 1-1, having lost to



Green Bay Packers head coach Mike McCarthy speaks during an NFL football news conference, Friday, Jan. 21, 2011, in Green Bay, Wis. The Packers face the Chicago Bears in the NFC Championship on Sunday in Chicago.

the 2006 Colts.

No one is comparing these Bears to the '85 version that shuffled its way through and over nearly everyone, then pummeled the Patriots 46-10 for the crown. That team is considered by many the best of all the 44 Super Bowl winners.

Should Chicago even approach that level Sunday, it probably will be packing for Big D.

"I think everyone in the locker room knows the magnitude of this game, knows what we're going up against," quarterback Jay Cutler said, "but at the same time we're going to enjoy it,

we're going to be loose, we're going to play our game. And we can't worry about what is going to happen afterward if we win, we lose, we just have to go out there and play."

"It's a huge game for Chicago and Green Bay. Just the number of times we've played each other, how familiar the two cities and the two teams are with each other, it's almost like a little mini-Super Bowl. But I know Chicago will be really disappointed if we don't win this game."

The Steelers have only a 7-7 record in AFC title games. But they are 6-1 in

Super Bowls, one more championship than San Francisco and Dallas own. The Steel Curtain carried them to four NFL crowns in the 1970s, and the 2005 and 2008 Steelers won it all.

It's a formidable resume Pittsburgh (13-4) carries into the conference championship matchup with New York (13-5).

"There's a history here you want to live up to, a high level of success," line-

backer James Farrior said.

The highest level, a place the Jets reached only once. Of course, their 1969 victory over the Colts validated the existence of the AFL, made Joe Namath a superstar, and pretty much established the Super Bowl as something, well, super.

New York has been close four times since: its 1982, 1998 and 2009 teams lost in the AFC championship game. Now, another chance.

"It's great. We expected to be here," loquacious, ultraconfident coach Rex Ryan said. "I don't know if we expected to travel the road we did. That was pretty tough, but we're just the men for the job. We have a locker room of mighty men and we knew what the goal was. We never lost sight of the goal. We always focused on the goal, and here it is."

Like the Packers, the Jets are a No. 6 seed. Unlike Green Bay, which is favored in the NFC title game, the Jets are underdogs.

"The great thing is there have been a ton of doubters, which you know going along the way that there are going to be doubters," Ryan said. "I keep going back to that Ray Robinson quote about when everybody else doubts you, you have to believe in yourself. That is what this team has. This is what this team does. We've always believed in ourselves. We've always believed we would get to this point and beyond. We're going to find out Sunday."

Wozniacki into quarterfinals at Australian Open



MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—Caroline Wozniacki moved into the Australian Open quarterfinals with a 6-3, 6-4 win over Anastasija Sevastova on Sunday and is just one victory from ensuring she'll retain the top ranking.

The 20-year-old Dane, playing her first major as world No. 1, reached the quarterfinals at Melbourne Park for the first time. She can keep her top ranking with an appearance in the semis.

She wants more than that, though. She's aiming for a first Grand Slam title.

Novak Djokovic earned his first major title by winning the 2008 Australian Open, but he hasn't added to his Grand Slam collection since and is desperate to change that in Melbourne. He advanced to the quarterfinals for the 13th time in his last 15 majors with a 6-3, 6-4, 6-0 win over No. 14 Nicolas Almagro.

Making it difficult for Djokovic to win major No. 2 has been the long domination of No. 1 Rafael Nadal and No. 2 Roger Federer, the defending champion here.

The questions about Wozniacki's worthiness of the top ranking are starting to diminish. Asked which player she feared most, she said: "I don't fear anyone actually."

"I'm feeling confident. I feel like I can beat anyone on a good day. I think they have to fear me when they're playing me," she said. "I just go out there and do my best. If they're better than me that day, it's just too good."

Wozniacki dropped three of the first four games of the match before

reeling off six in a row, including a break in the first game of the second set. Sevastova, ranked No. 46, rallied and the pair traded breaks until Wozniacki regained control.

Wozniacki now has reached the quarterfinals at all four majors, and she's navigated some troublesome ground. According to the WTA, only one of the last five women to be ranked No. 1 went beyond the first round in the first major they played with the top ranking.

Li Na, already China's most successful player, reached the quarterfinals with a 6-3, 6-3 win over eighth-seeded Victoria Azarenka of Belarus.

The ninth-seeded Li was one of two Chinese players to reach the semifinals at Melbourne Park last year, her run ending with a loss to eventual champion Serena Williams in two tiebreak sets.

While Wozniacki says she's not scared of any of her fellow players, she did confide that an up-close encounter with a baby kangaroo left her a little scarred.

She saw one of the native marsupials lying in the shade in a park way outside of the city and thought it needed help. She learned her lesson quickly when the wild creature scratched her. Note to Caroline: kangaroos don't hop around all day.

"I just wanted to help it out. I found out that I shouldn't do that," she said. "It scratched me pretty well. That's why I'm playing with this tape on my shin. It looked so cute. But once it started scratching me, I was a coward

and I run away."

Nadal kept his bid for a "Rafa Slam" on track and ended Australia's last hope in the tournament, with a 6-2, 7-5, 6-3 win over 18-year-old wild card Bernard Tomic in the third round.

He extended his Grand Slam winning streak to 24 matches, but said he's not feeling in peak shape. He is feeling the lingering effects of an illness that slowed him at the start of the year, and is sweating and feeling more tired than usual during matches.

"I was perfect when I started the season. I was playing perfect and I was feeling perfect physically," Nadal said. "In Doha, I had that problem. I wasn't feel very well. Have fever and these things."

"Seems like after that my body is still not perfect."

The last two Australians went out in consecutive night matches on Rod Laver Arena on a day that attracted a record crowd for the Australian Open—77,121 across day and night sessions. French Open finalist Sam Stosur lost 7-6 (5), 6-3 loss to No. 25 Petra Kvitova.

It hasn't been a good tournament for Australia, which hasn't produced a homegrown winner of the national championship in more than 30 years.

In fact, it hasn't been a good tournament for any of the countries that host the four majors.

John Isner went out in a 4-6, 6-2, 6-7 (5), 7-6 (2), 9-7 loss to No. 15 Marin Cilic late Saturday, leaving Andy Roddick as the only American in the tournament.

Woodland, Vegas share lead again at Hope Classic



LA QUINTA, Calif.

(AP)—Gary Woodland and Jhonattan Vegas realize the marathon Bob Hope Classic will come down to a sprint.

At least the weather will be perfect for a good run at their first PGA Tour victories.

Vegas birdied the final five holes Saturday to rejoin Woodland for the second straight day atop a leaderboard dominated by hungry, inexperienced 20-somethings.

Woodland and Vegas shot 66s to set up a fifth-round showdown between two 26-year-olds with tremendous driving power and little experience in such pressure-packed situations. Neither slugger had ever held a lead on the PGA Tour until this week.

"This deal is still long from over," Woodland said. "It's going to be a shootout again. The conditions will be perfect again. The greens are perfect. You're going to have to go low and get that putter hot."

Vegas fell several shots behind Woodland with a rough start on the La Quinta course before his flurry of birdies to get to 6 under, matching Woodland at 24 under for the week. Woodland was as steady as the postcard-perfect weather on the Palmer Private course in the PGA Tour's only five-day, four-course event.

"I saw the leaderboard and saw that Gary was (ahead), so I really tried to push it a little bit, and things went my way," said Vegas, who finished his round with an 18-foot birdie putt. "I stayed patient, stayed positive throughout the round, and was able to hit some really good shots in a row."

Vegas and Woodland will play to-

gether Sunday with Scotland's Martin Laird, who was two shots back, on the generous Palmer course. The ideal Palm Springs conditions, described by more than one golfer as playing in a dome, are likely to make near-perfection necessary.

"You know right from the first hole you've got to keep firing away," said Laird, who has only one PGA Tour win. "You can't play defensive golf. ... You've got to fire at flags. I don't know what it's going to take, but I think last year, 30 under won, and I would not be surprised if it was that or lower tomorrow."

Laird also shot a 66 to stay right behind the leaders, and defending champion Bill Haas jumped into a tie for fourth place with a 10-under 62 on the Palmer course. Haas, Chris Kirk, Keegan Bradley and Daniel Summerhays were 21 under.

With most of the sport's top names taking the week off or playing in Abu Dhabi, the Hope is a prime opportunity for a young player looking to make a mark in a historically important tournament fallen on leaner times despite its \$5 million purse. None of the Hope's top seven leaders are older than 28—and Vegas, Kirk, Summerhays and Bradley all were members of the Nationwide Tour's graduating class last year.

The prospect of a frantic finish intrigues both Woodland, the former college basketball player playing in his 28th PGA Tour event, and Vegas, the Venezuelan golf pioneer making just his fifth appearance. Woodland never even won on the Nationwide Tour, but plans to draw on his basketball experience and on his four tournament victories during his senior year at Kansas.

Kagman lady strikers rout Southern

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Kagman High School forward Andrea Camacho recorded a hat trick to power the Lady Ayuyus to a 4-0 win over Saipan Southern High School in the Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization Girls Varsity Soccer League last Friday at the Southern Field.

The Lady Ayuyus notched their first win in a dominating fashion after settling for draws with both Marianas High School squads in their first two

games. Southern's Manta Rays are winless after three games.

Kagman and Southern felt each other out at the start, before the Lady Ayuyus' Camacho broke the ice in the 10-minute mark of the first half to put their team ahead, 1-0. Notably, Camacho now leads the league in goals scored with five.

Southern fended off the Ayuyus for the remainder of the half and drew praises from the coaching staff for its hustle.

KHS came out pumped up in the second half and took over the game, as Southern players began to get tired.

Six minutes in the second

half, Kagman forward Nichelle Sablan dribbled the ball halfway up the field, recovered her own deflected pass, and kicked a shot from the left side that found the back of the net.

Shortly after, Camacho made it 3-0, for Kagman, after taking advantage of Southern's defensive miscue and charging toward the goal for her second goal in the match.

The Lady Rays found a number of scoring opportunities afterwards, including a free kick and a wide open fastbreak that were both, when whistled by the referee, a little too close for Kagman's comfort. However, Southern could not convert ei-

ther of them.

Camacho completed her hat trick near the end of the game by capitalizing on another self-created fastbreak.

Southern managed a couple more scoring chances, trying to avoid the shutout, including a big one-timer that clanged off the goal post, but still came up empty in the contest.

In other news, MHS 1 tied MHS 2, 1-1, in their match up on Wednesday. The sister teams now share identical 1-2 win-draw records

The soccer league continues today with Kagman taking on MHS1 at 4:15pm at the Southern Field.



WALTER SUTHERLAND
Kagman High School forward Andrea Camacho kicks the ball during their game against Saipan Southern High School in the MISO soccer league last Friday at the Southern Field.

PAIRE

From Page 28

goal for MP United, which advanced to the finals after beating Independents A1 in the semifinals, 3-1.

Paire claimed the first finals seat after routing Independents Football Club A2, 8-0. Paire was unbeaten throughout the season to defend its fall championship. In 2009, Paire finished the double-round robin league with a 6-2-0 win-draw-

loss records, tying MP United and won on points to gain the fall championship.

Paire's B league team also ruled the 2009 fall season and completed the back-to-back championships after a 2-1 finals win over the youthful crew of

Matansa U18 last Saturday.

Paire's B league team or its recreational squad is composed of mothers and the much slower, but experienced players turned back the hands of time, stunning the young strikers of Matansa.

Vanessa Mobel scored twin goals for Paire, making a header in the first half and a breakaway goal in the second. Roxie Lamar hit Paire's first goal early in the first half. Phalai Frink tallied both goals for Matansa U18 in the second half.

Maria Ornes, who was part of Paire's 2009 champion team, played goalie for the winning squad and was busy all day diving for saves. Completing

the team are Dan Wang, Lori Serna, Sonal Patil, Leanne Loan, Temary Gramlich, Angie Mister, Linda Anastacio, and Stephanie Shapiro.

Paire advanced to the B finals after downing Tan Holdings in the semis early in the morning. Matansa U12 booked the second finals ticket after surviving Shirley's Coffee Shop in a shootout. Shirley's settled for third place after beating Tan Holdings.

FITIAL

From Page 28

have won either by split or unanimous decision, while very few agreed that Martinez deserved a win. Some Martinez supporters insisted that the tie was justified.

According to a Guam-based ShoYoRoll Forum online moderator known as "Showdown," majority of those in attendance disagreed with the verdict, as the fight's play by play account was shown live on www.srygu.com.

During the live feed, Showdown initially stated, "The judges scored it a draw. The crowd disagreed. Roque is still champ. Honestly, I was rooting for Roque, but I disagreed with the judges."

However, "Showdown" later retracted his original statement and claimed, "After much re-capping in my mind, I can see how it could be scored a draw."

Showdown went on to de-

scribe how Fitial looked like the slower fighter and that Martinez's defense was good enough to award the latter a draw. Just before giving rightful props to both fighters, Showdown concluded, "I take back my statement about Kelvin being the definite winner. I would hate to be a judge in this fight."

Trench Tech Purebred's Cuki Alvarez was at the fight, sitting ringside and questioned the result.

"I believed that Kelvin won that fight. In my professional opinion I think it was just bad judging. Kelvin clearly was more of the aggressor in the fight. He landed more punches and kicks throughout the entire five rounds," Alvarez said.

Alvarez added that all three judges were from Guam. He also attested that the fight really was a worthwhile crowd pleaser.

According to the online fight recap, the two fighters stood and banged in the first round with Fitial being the aggressor. Fitial

started out slow, but Martinez primarily played defensively aside from a takedown attempt that was sprawled off by The Big Hit.

Both fighters remained on their feet in the second round. While Martinez tried to work his jab, Fitial was going for the knockout and got in some heavy strikes in the process that bloodied up Martinez. However, Fitial was also penalized with a low blow to the groin that caused a brief pause in the action.

Then in the third round, Martinez found a single-leg takedown, but Fitial managed to stand up. From there, Fitial took advantage of his longer reach and came out on top of the strike exchanges in the third round.

Martinez shot in for a double-leg takedown in round four, but Fitial managed a top mount position and unleashed some vicious ground and pound blows. Martinez looked gassed out but escaped the bottom position and

got to his feet. He then found a takedown and dealt out his own onslaught of ground strikes until the bell rang.

Then in the final round, Fitial relied on his longer reach and prevented Martinez from penetrating his range. Fitial connected with a big knee and a flurry of strikes, which Martinez absorbed before trying to answer.

The judges made the controversial decision and after the draw, Fitial immediately requested a rematch

"Both fighters showed a lot of heart, determination, and very good sportsmanship after the fight, especially Kelvin after the decision was rendered. Kelvin should have been the most upset individual that night, but he was very humble and gracious and even thanked the crowd for the warm hospitality. He even mentioned that he love Guam and respects the decision and if Roque agrees to a rematch he'd be glad to fight him again," Alvarez said.

40A

From Page 28

ahead, 54-46, heading into the final 10 minutes, thanks much in part to the two three-pointers of Yosh Gabaldon. Gabaldon's teammate, George Masga, also helped the squad's cause, chipping in a string of five points as the third quarter winded down.

The 45A All-Stars did not give up and saved some gas for the final canto. The 45A All-Stars managed to keep it a two-possession game until the final minute when the 40A All-Stars converted three pressured free throws to keep the

latter's distance.

Late in the game, Joe Pangilinan nailed a pair of clutch three balls to keep 45A's hopes alive, but Masga was simply too much for them in the fourth quarter. Masga tallied 11 points in the last period and finished with 19 to lead all scorers. Berline led the 45A All-Stars with 18 markers.

40A All-Stars 74 – G. Masga 19, Moreno 13, Montano 13, Verano 11, Gabaldon 8, D. Masga 5, Babauta 4, Bello 1.

45A All-Stars 68 – Berline 18, Pangilinan 15, Abedes 12, Luzama 10, Ebuen 6, Garcia 6.

Scoring by quarters: 19-12, 31-33, 54-46, 74-68.

DOLPHINS

From Page 28

called for a timeout with 10 seconds left on the clock. When game resumed, Melvin Cadiang pulled up for a trey, but his shot fell short. A visibly tired Cadiang dropped on the floor after the missed shot while MHS melted the clock to secure the win.

Southern had chances of winning the game in both extension periods, but just could not finish the match. In the first overtime, the Rays were ahead, 113-110, with 17 seconds left and MHS had possession. Then in the inbound play, Pedro Castro fouled a cutting Aurelio. After the infraction, Castro complained too much and was slapped with a technical foul, putting Aurelio

at the stripe for four free throws. Aulerio went 3-for-4 to tie the game with 5.2 seconds left in the first overtime. MHS was still in possession, but failed to make a shot, extending the match for five more minutes.

In the second overtime, Southern was on top, 125-120, with less than two minutes left, but lost the lead when Darag scored eight straight points, including a triple that gave MHS a 127-125 cushion.

Jimmy Tudela canned two pressure-packed charities in Southern's next possession to force a deadlock, before Aurelio's tough shot broke the tie and handed MHS its fourth win in five games. Southern dropped to a 1-3 slate.

The Rays led by as much as 14, 27-13, in the second quarter before Darag and Aulerio

brought the Dolphins back. The first half ended with Southern only on top by a deuce, 42-40, and it was a nip-and-tuck game since then with the match ending past 9pm and nine players fouling out.

Darag and Aulerio combined for more than half of the Dolphins' output with the former scoring 39 points.

Cadiang paced Southern with 28, but missed crucial free throws in the second overtime due to fatigue. Tristan Ecalnea had 16, but fouled out with about four minutes left in regulation. JP Villanueva added 15, but he too fouled out in the first overtime.

In the junior varsity game, Southern avenged its first round loss to MHS after pulling off a 32-31 win. The Dolphins prevailed in their first meeting, 35-33.

Bryle Alegre led the Rays

with 14 points.

First Game

SSHS 32 – Alegre 14, Macahito 9, Salem 6, Villanueva 2, Orejola 1.

MHS 31 – Cenir 7, Mancao 6, Capuyon 6, Dela Rosa 6, Lorenzo 4, Suarez 2.

Scoring by quarters: 6-8, 12-17, 20-23, 32-31.

Second Game

MHS 130 – Aulerio 40, Darag 39, Ichihara 12, Duatin 7, Mendiola 7, Manalili 6, Feria 6, Lacsina 2, Sanarez 2, Cenir 2, Dela Rosa 1.

SSHS 127 – Cadiang 28, Ecalnea 17, Castro 16, Villanueva 15, Jung 14, Ngeskebei 8, Tudela 8, Salem 7, Ferrer 7.

Scoring by quarters: 11-23, 40-42, 66-69, 97-97, 113-113, 130-127.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES	
NBA STANDINGS	
EASTERN CONFERENCE	
Atlantic Division	
	W L Pct GB
Boston	33 9 .786 —
New York	22 20 .524 11
Philadelphia	17 25 .405 16
Toronto	13 30 .302 20 1/2
New Jersey	12 31 .279 21 1/2
Southeast Division	
Miami	30 13 .698 —
Orlando	28 15 .651 2
Atlanta	28 16 .636 2 1/2
Charlotte	17 24 .415 12
Washington	12 29 .293 17
Central Division	
Chicago	29 14 .674 —
Indiana	16 23 .410 11
Milwaukee	16 24 .400 11 1/2
Detroit	15 28 .349 14
Cleveland	8 34 .190 20 1/2
WESTERN CONFERENCE	
Southwest Division	
San Antonio	37 6 .860 —
Dallas	27 15 .643 9 1/2
New Orleans	28 16 .636 9 1/2
Memphis	20 23 .465 17
Houston	20 24 .455 17 1/2
Northwest Division	
Oklahoma City	27 15 .643 —
Utah	27 16 .628 1/2
Denver	24 18 .571 3
Portland	24 20 .545 4
Minnesota	10 33 .233 17 1/2
Pacific Division	
L.A. Lakers	32 13 .711 —
Phoenix	20 21 .488 10
Golden State	19 23 .452 11 1/2
L.A. Clippers	16 26 .381 14 1/2
Sacramento	9 32 .220 21
Yesterday's Games	
Oklahoma City 101, New York 98	
Los Angeles 113, Golden State 109	
New Orleans 96, San Antonio 72	
Orlando 118, Houston 104	
Washington 85, Boston 83	
Atlanta 103, Charlotte 87	
Philadelphia 96, Utah 85	
Miami 120, Toronto 103	
Dallas 87, New Jersey 86	
Chicago 92, Cleveland 79	
Memphis 94, Milwaukee 79	
Detroit 75, Phoenix 74	
BOB HOPE CLASSIC SCORES	
LA QUINTA, California (AP) — Scores Saturday from the \$5 million Bob Hope Classic golf tournament, played on the; p-PGA West, Arnold Palmer Private Course (6,950 yards), n-PGA West, Jack Nicklaus Private Course (6,924 yards), the I-La Quinta Country Club (7,060 yards), and the s-SilverRock Resort, Palmer Course (7,403 yards)	
FOURTH ROUND	
Gary Woodland	65s-69l-64n-66p-264
Jhonattan Vegas	64p-67n-67s-66l-264
Martin Laird	68l-68s-64p-66n-266
Chris Kirk	69l-68s-64p-66n-267
Bill Haas	69s-68l-68n-62p-267
Daniel Summerhays	69s-66l-68n-66p-267
Keegan Bradley	66n-67p-68l-66s-267
Greg Chalmers	67n-67p-65l-66s-268
Kevin Na	69l-67s-68p-66n-269
Charles Howell III	66n-66p-70l-67s-269
Matt Kuchar	66s-70l-67n-66p-269
Boo Weekley	65p-66n-72s-66l-269
Ryan Palmer	67l-71s-65p-67n-270
Dean Wilson	69l-68s-67p-66n-270
Jerry Kelly	67l-68s-67p-66n-270
Shaun Micheel	66s-72l-68n-66p-271
Ryuji Imada	66p-71n-68s-66l-271
Chris Couch	67l-65s-69p-70n-271
Michael Bradley	66p-69n-67s-67l-271
Alex Cejka	69p-67n-67s-68l-271
Brian Davis	67p-66n-71s-68l-272
Webb Simpson	68s-69l-67n-68p-272
David Duval	68s-67l-69n-66p-272
Justin Leonard	69s-71n-64n-66p-272
Derek Lamely	63p-73n-72s-64l-272
Kevin Stadler	72s-68l-66n-66p-272
Scott McCarron	70s-70l-66n-66p-272
Jeff Overton	69n-65p-67l-72s-273
Stephen Ames	69p-68n-68s-68l-273
BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS	

Weekend Sports

It was coronation time for teams and individuals topping their respective competitions last week.

First up on the throne was bowler Robert Talavera, who was named 2010 King of the Lanes after ruling the Saipan Bowling Association's season-finale roll-off against Rusty Musca.

Alex Castro missed the SBA championship, but still had a notable performance last week after registering a perfect game during the Philippine Bowling Association's Saturday Night League.

Next to be crowned were

Crowning week for champions

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
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REPORTER

the nine champion teams in the Saipan Electronic Darts Association's fall league and the Bud Cup tournaments.

Also getting recognition for ruling their respective competitions were Community Emergency Response Team, Top 45, Armatech, and golfer Adony Matutino.

CERT reigned in the 2010 Inter-Government/Business Slow-pitch Softball League after a come-from-behind win over D&Q Spam in the winner-take-all finals, 21-19, last Thursday night at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

Top 45 and Armatech clinched the championship in

the 45A and 40A divisions, respectively, of the Masters Basketball Federation of the NMI's Memorial Cup. Top 45 won in the finals against Kitty Kat-Ferrera Builders, 81-80, while Armatech prevailed over The House, 71-66.

Matutino claimed the 2010 Fil-Taga Golfer of the Year award,

beating 11 other participants in the two-round tournament played at Coral Ocean Point and Marianas Country Club.

In other big events last week, the 2nd UBA/Docomo caging kicked off, while NMIFA's futsal fall league had its playoff round.

The Hoopaholics won over defending champion Prospects

in the UBA/Docomo league opener and then beat IT&E Fundamentalists in their second game. Other winners in the opening week of the caging were the Ol'Aces, Satbahi, NMC Proa, and Mobil.

In the futsal league at the Marianas High School Gymnasium, MP United and Paire arranged their title duel in the A league division after winning their separate semis games.

Still at the MHS Gymnasium, Kagman High School kept its unbeaten record in the MISO varsity caging after downing the Dolphins.



WALTER SUTHERLAND

Armatech players pose with their championship trophy after beating The House, 71-66, in the 40A finals of the Memorial Cup last week at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Community Emergency Response Team players and supporters pose for a photo after ruling the 2010 Inter-Government/Business Slow-pitch Softball League last Thursday night at the Capital Hill Ballfield.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Hoopaholics' Kelvin Fital is double teamed by IT&E Fundamentalists defenders during their game in the UBA/Docomo caging last week at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Adony Matutino watches his ball drop to the cup during the 2010 Fil-Taga Golfer of the Year Tournament at the Coral Oceania Point course.



► King of the Lanes Robert Talavera is flanked by runners-up Rusty Musca, right, and Simon Manacop.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

◀ MP United's Carrie Schuler tries to stop the ball, while Independents' Lindsay Davis closes in during their semis game in the A division of the NMIFA futsal league at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Durant triple lifts Thunders over Knicks

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Crowning week for champions

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28 MONDAY, JANUARY 24, 2011

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Paire sweeps women's futsal league

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Paire Football Club had a double celebration last Saturday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium after ruling both the A and B divisions of the 2010 NMIFA Women's Futsal Fall League.

Paire started its twin wins with a title-clinching victory in the A league against MP United, 8-1. The eventual champion notched a 6-0 lead in the first half of the finals and still outscored MP United in the second half, 2-1, to cruise to an easy win.

Megan Herber drilled three goals in the first half and added one more in the second for Paire's dominating win. Patricia Coleman made two in the first half, while Priscilla Norman and Vanessa Pritchard had one apiece.

Other members of the champion Paire squad are goalie Rebecca Schroeder, Rebecca Iseman, Amber Roberts, Zoe Jewell, and Connie Camacho.

Carrie Schuler nailed the lone goal in the B division.

See PAIRE on Page 26



Paire Football Club's Temary Gramlich, left, kicks the ball against Matansa U18's Rima Halaby during their title game in the B division of the NMIFA futsal league last Saturday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium. Paire won, 3-2.

Dolphins slip past Rays in double overtime



By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Marianas High School survived a hell of a game, outlasting Saipan Southern High School in double overtime, 130-127, in the 2010-2011 Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization Boys Basketball League last Friday at the MHS Gymnasium.

Brandon Aulerio scored a season-high 40 points for the Dolphins, including a 3-pointer that finally ended the varsity division game after MHS and Southern slugged it out for more than three hours.

With 11.9 seconds left in the second overtime and the match tied at 127-all, Aulerio canned the game-winning basket to complete the Dolphins' sweep of the Rays in the double-round robin regular season. MHS beat Southern in the first round, 74-69.

Behind, 130-127, Southern

The crucial play started with John Darag inbounding the ball from the right sideline. Aurelio was at the left wing and then received a screen from a teammate before getting Darag's pass. After having the leather, Aulerio made a quick turn, leaving the Rays' defense no time to react on the play, and the MHS swingman connected on a banked triple.

See DOLPHINS on Page 26

The Dolphins' Brandon Aulerio challenges a phalanx of Southern defenders during their game in the MISO caging last Friday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium. The Dolphins won in double overtime, 130-127.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Fital settles for draw in title bout

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER



The CNMI's Kelvin "The Big Hit" Fital went five exhausting rounds of all out mixed martial arts war against Pacific Xtreme Combat champion Roque Martinez, but had to settle for a controversial draw in their heavy-weight title bout during the PXC 22: Battle For The Belt last Friday night at University of Guam Fieldhouse.

Spectators booed the decision when it was announced and others followed suit. PXC's very own Facebook page was even peppered with comments from numerous MMA fans.

Many of the online complaints believed Fital should

See FITAL on Page 26



Fital

40A All-Stars draw first blood

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The 40A All-Stars defeated their 45A counterparts, 74-68, in the Marianas Basketball Federation of the NMI's Memorial Cup All-Star Game last Saturday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The win reserved the 40A All-Stars an appointment with the 35A All-Stars tomorrow at 6pm for the bragging rights in the "Clash of the Titans" competition.

Armotech's Martin Moreno, who won the Finals MVP in the 40A division, led the way for his squad, scoring eight points in

the opening period to help build an early 19-12, lead.

The 45A All-Stars started slow, but came back strong in the second period to pull off a slim 33-31 edge at halftime. Bruce Berline delivered eight points and played a big role defensively for the 45A All-Stars

in the second quarter. With Berline's presence, the 45A All-Stars contained their foes to 12 points in the second quarter.

However, the 45A All-Stars lost some steam after the break and only managed 13 markers in the third quarter. Meanwhile, the 40A All-Stars shot

See 40A on Page 26



WALTER SUTHERLAND

Members of the 40A All-Stars pose for a photo after beating the 45A All-Stars, 74-68, in last Saturday's MBFNM Memorial Cup's "Clash of the Titans" All-Star Game at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.